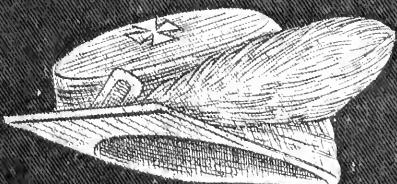


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HISTORY  
OF THE  
150<sup>TH</sup> REGIMENT



PENNA. VOLUNTEERS



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COLONEL H. S. HUDEKOPF.



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BREVET BRIGADIER-GENERAL LANGHORNE WISTER.



BREVET MAJOR R. L. AMHERST.



SURGEON MICHAEL O'HARA.

HISTORY  
OF THE  
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH REGIMENT  
PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS,  
SECOND REGIMENT, BUCKTAIL BRIGADE.

BY  
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL THOMAS CHAMBERLIN,  
HISTORIAN OF THE SURVIVORS' ASSOCIATION.

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PHILADELPHIA:  
PRINTED BY J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY.  
1895.



1895  
BY  
THOMAS CHAMBERLIN.

**Dedicated**  
TO  
THE SURVIVING OFFICERS AND MEN  
OF THE  
“150TH,”  
AND  
TO THE MEMORY OF ITS DEAD.



## P R E F A C E.

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Now that nearly a third of a century has elapsed since the 150th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers gathered to the colors, when inquiry is made about the beginnings of the organization, the recollections of many of its most intelligent members are found to be more or less confused, and on some points quite unreliable. Is it that the infancy of a regiment, like that of an individual, has nothing in it of sufficient value to be remembered and preserved to posterity? Possibly not much. Yet, if even for a few of those still living who fought in the great War for the Union; or for the friends who were, for valid reasons, unable to share their trials, but watched with solicitude their progress in the field; or for the larger number of those who pride themselves on their descent from the patriotic actors in that grand tragedy, the birth and early movements of a particular military body have their interest, it is a sufficient warrant for noting in permanent form all that may be known of them.

It is scarcely a matter of wonder that the minute details of the organization of a regiment are so imperfectly recalled by its members. In the first days of his enlistment the eager soldier looks forward to the time of important deeds and chafes at every hour's delay in town or camp. However seriously his ambitions may be modified by actual experience of warfare, his desire at the start is to meet the foe as promptly as possible,— to hear the rattle of musketry, the clash of sabres, the boom of cannon, and to snuff the intoxicating smoke of battle. All

else is "rubbish." Only after marching orders have set the machine of which he is a part in motion is the patient military "chronicler of small things" developed. Pocket annals blossom then on every side. Soon, however, the ardor of many would-be historians is chilled as the strain of daily duty grows more severe, and of diaries it is presently only a question of the "survival of the fittest."

After the transfer of the 150th from Harrisburg to Washington, the materials for a circumstantial account of its doings and experiences grow more abundant. It is the previous gap that is difficult to bridge over. But as some old and valued nurse is usually at hand to clear up misty points of family history or chronology, so there are still those left who stood in a manner as nurses to the infant organization, and, besides witnessing its birth, watched its growth, followed or shared the actions of its vigorous maturity, and continue to enjoy the memory of its achievements. From these have been gathered, as opportunity offered, many facts which—if of small general value—may prove interesting to the surviving members of the regiment and to their families and friends.

The narrative of the campaigns of the 150th—its tent-life, marches, and battles—has been drawn from all available sources,—chiefly from diaries kept by enlisted men and from letters written from the field, supplemented by the recollections of field-, staff-, and line-officers, as well as of the rank and file. Nothing has been set down without careful authentication, and where the memory of witnesses has clashed in respect to any important incident, everything possible has been done to reconcile the disagreement and reach the actual fact.

Acknowledgments are due to General H. S. Huidekoper and Brevet Major R. L. Ashhurst for the use of valuable private army correspondence; to Colonel George W. Jones, Captain H. K. Lukens, and Sergeant William R. Ramsey for many items of interest; to Adjutant William Wright for written

accounts of the battles of the North Anna and Hatcher's Run, and of the expedition to Fall Brook; to Rev. H. M. Kieffer, D.D., for copies of his weekly reports, as hospital steward, for the greater part of the year 1864; and to Sergeant Albert Mealey, Corporal George A. Dixon, and Frank H. Elvidge, all of Company A, for the loan of diaries,—that of Private Elvidge in particular, on account of its covering a longer period of time and entering more fully into the details of each day's operations, proving the most serviceable contribution received from any quarter. Thanks are also due to many other members of the regiment for valuable suggestions and assistance from time to time as the work progressed, and to Mr. Ellicott Fisher, brother of the late Captain Harvey Fisher, of Company A, for the use of letters and papers left by the latter, relating to his army career.

If many matters are recalled by members of the command which find no place in this history,—such as instances of individual daring, humorous or pathetic happenings, unique experiences in camp or field,—their absence is explained by the fact that repeated requests for material of this kind received but a meagre response, to the regret of the writer, who knows the value of incident and anecdote in such a narrative. His work has been done painstakingly and conscientiously, in hours with difficulty snatched from an exacting business; and if his book, which is truly a *labor of love*, have no other merit, it is at least, or aims to be, a *faithful presentation of the truth*.

PHILADELPHIA, April 10, 1895.



## CONTENTS.

---

| CHAPTER  | PAGE |
|--|------|
| I.—ORGANIZATION—THE PHILADELPHIA COMPANIES . . . . .   | 11   |
| II.—TO HARRISBURG—REGIMENTAL ORGANIZATION . . . . .  | 21   |
| III.—CONCERNING THE “BUCKTAIL BRIGADE” . . . . .   | 27   |
| IV.—ON TO WASHINGTON—IN WASHINGTON . . . . .   | 31   |
| V.—SOCIAL AND OTHER MATTERS . . . . .  | 38   |
| VI.—DETAILS FOR DUTY—BREAKING UP OF THE CAMP . . . . .   | 42   |
| VII.—WASHINGTON IN THE WINTER OF 1862-1863 . . . . .   | 49   |
| VIII.—TO THE FRONT—BELLE PLAIN . . . . .   | 55   |
| IX.—VARIOUS HAPPENINGS IN AND OUT OF CAMP . . . . .  | 62   |
| X.—NIGHT MARCH TO PORT CONWAY—ARTILLERY ENGAGEMENT<br>AT POLLOCK’S MILLS . . . . .   | 72   |
| XI.—CHANCELLORSVILLE . . . . .   | 80   |
| XII.—IN CAMP AT WHITE OAK CHURCH . . . . .   | 91   |
| XIII.—TO GETTYSBURG . . . . .  | 101  |
| XIV.—GETTYSBURG—FIRST DAY . . . . .  | 110  |
| XV.—GETTYSBURG, TO A FINISH . . . . .  | 131  |
| XVI.—RETURN TO VIRGINIA—FROM PILLAR TO POST . . . . .  | 146  |
| XVII.—FROM CENTREVILLE BACK TO THE “OLD STAMPING GROUND”<br>—WARRENTON JUNCTION—MINE RUN—PAOLI MILLS . . .   | 156  |
| XVIII.—CULPEPER—RACCOON FORD—A WOULD-BE INCAPABLE—AN AP-<br>PEAL TO CESAR—RESIGNATIONS . . . . .   | 169  |
| XIX.—ACROSS THE RAPIDAN—THE WILDERNESS . . . . .   | 182  |
| XX.—LAUREL HILL—SPOTTSYLVANIA . . . . .  | 193  |
| XXI.—THE AFFAIR AT THE NORTH ANNA—TOTOPOTOMOY . . . .  | 201  |
| XXII.—FROM COLD HARBOR TO PETERSBURG . . . . .   | 209  |
| XXIII.—FORT SEDGWICK (OR “HELL”)—MAKING CONVERTS—WELDON<br>RAILROAD . . . . .  | 222  |
| XXIV.—FORT DUSHANE—FIRST MOVEMENT ON HATCHER’S RUN . .   | 232  |
| XXV.—IN WINTER-QUARTERS—EXCHANGE OF ARMS—PRESIDENTIAL<br>ELECTION—SECOND WELDON RAILROAD EXPEDITION—SECOND<br>HATCHER’S RUN (OR DABNEY’S MILL) . . . . .           | 243  |
| XXVI.—TO ELMIRA, NEW YORK—GUARDING CONSCRIPTS—EXPEDITION<br>TO FALL BROOK, PENNSYLVANIA, AND A BLOODLESS VICTORY<br>—MUSTER-OUT AND FINAL PAY—HOME AGAIN . . . . . | 250  |
| APPENDIX . . . . .   | 261  |
|  | 9    |



# HISTORY OF THE 150TH REGIMENT PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS.

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## CHAPTER I.

### ORGANIZATION—THE PHILADELPHIA COMPANIES.

THE 150th Pennsylvania Volunteers, like many other regiments designated by advanced numbers, was born of the exigencies of the government resulting from the disasters of the campaign in front of Richmond in the summer of 1862,—disasters which could in no sense be attributed to any lack of spirit, courage, or intelligence on the part of the Army of the Potomac, whose fighting qualities never shone more conspicuously than on the fields of Mechanicsville, Gaines's Mill, and Malvern Hill, but rather to a fatal defect in its management, which a comparison of the records of the two contending forces has already made plain. The pestilential air of the Chickahominy vied with the bullets and shells of the enemy in thinning the ranks of our troops, and at the end of the Seven Days' battles the necessity for immediate and active recruiting was painfully apparent. In July of that year, while the army was lying inactive at Harrison's Landing, on the James River, Major Roy Stone, who had commanded with great skill and gallantry the six companies of the 1st Pennsylvania Rifles (better known as the "Bucktails," 13th Regiment Pennsylvania Reserve

Volunteer Corps, or 42d Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers), serving with McClellan,—the other four companies had been detached, and were operating with McDowell's command, under Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas L. Kane,—asked for and obtained orders to proceed to Pennsylvania on recruiting service. He had participated in most of the engagements in the ill-advised and humiliating "change of base," and while his little battalion had established an enviable reputation for valor and efficiency, it had met with most serious losses. It was to repair this waste that the major avowedly started on his mission; but in consultation with his colonel, Hugh W. McNeil, who had just returned to his command after a considerable absence caused by sickness, he had broached the further idea of raising a brigade of the same stamp of men as the 1st Rifles, which the colonel caught up with much enthusiasm. The plan lay very near to Major Stone's heart, and he needed no urging to put it in execution. Colonel McNeil at once addressed the following letter to Governor Curtin:

" HEAD-QUARTERS 1ST RIFLES, P.R.V.C.,  
" HARRISON'S LANDING, VA., July 8, 1862.

" HON. A. G. CURTIN, GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA.

" SIR,—Major Stone returns to Pennsylvania on the Recruiting Service. During the severe engagements of the past few days my regiment was in the hottest of the fight, under the command of Major Stone. The Generals of the Reserve Corps speak in the highest terms of its efficiency, and of the distinguished gallantry of that accomplished officer. Where the 'Bucktails' fought there was no giving way of our lines, and where the Major would bring up his Spartan Band, there brigades would re-form and hold their position. General Seymour says he cannot spare a battalion of such veterans from the service, and is desirous that its strength be at once re-established. The name of 'Bucktail' has become a terror to the enemy and an inspiration to our own men. I can speak impartially of the brave fellows, as it was not my privilege to lead them, and as to the Major,—to him is immediately due the credit of their heroic conduct on the Peninsula. A more extended organization would be greatly advantageous to the service.

" A Bucktail Brigade of light infantry would reflect additional honor

on the old Commonwealth and the Executive that has given the Pennsylvania army to the country. I hope that you may authorize Major Stone to recruit a brigade to be attached to the Reserve Corps. He has won his title to such a command by brilliant achievement on the field, that has elicited the commendation of his General Officers, and has a reputation even with McClellan.

“ I am, Governor,

“ Your most obedient servant,

“ HUGH W. MCNEIL, *Colonel,*

“ *Commanding Rifles.*”

About the same time Captain Langhorne Wister, of Company B of the same regiment, likewise requested permission to go home on recruiting service, basing his application on the reduced condition of his command, with incidental mention of a personal disability resulting from a slight wound in the ankle, received in the battle of Gaines’s Mill. His petition was favored, and these two officers were presently in hearty co-operation in an effort to realize the commendable project of a “ Bucktail Brigade.” In his eagerness to pave the way for their success, Colonel McNeil, on the same day on which his letter was addressed to Governor Curtin, wrote to one of his own influential friends as follows :

“ HARRISON’S LANDING, July 8, 1862.

“ DEAR THEO,—Major Stone has proved himself a hero in the battles before Richmond. He goes to Pennsylvania to recruit our Spartan Band, now much reduced. He is likely to receive authority from the Department and the Governor to raise a ‘ Bucktail’ Brigade. General Seymour commends him for that purpose. I would be greatly delighted that he should succeed. He has won, on the field, a title to a superior command, and proved himself eminently qualified.

“ If any ‘ red tape’ is required, I shall ask your influence in the proper quarter.

“ Yours very truly,

“ H. W. MCNEIL, *Colonel,*

“ *Commanding Rifles.*”

The idea of the new brigade was no sooner presented to Governor Curtin than it met with instant favor, and the requi-

site authority for putting it on foot was given without delay. Through Colonel J. H. Puleston, Pennsylvania Military Agent at Washington (now Sir John Puleston, a member of Parliament), the approval of the Secretary of War was readily obtained, and the United States Superintendent of Recruiting Service for Pennsylvania endorsed the movement.

Before the middle of August, 1862, after due arrangements had been made for filling the depleted ranks of the 1st Rifles, preparations for raising the Bucktail Brigade were begun, and the work was pushed forward with the utmost rapidity. In and near Philadelphia ten companies were speedily in process of formation for the regiment which eventually became the 150th, and, if sufficient time had been allowed, doubtless all of these could have been filled to the required standard. Such was their growth that the organization was placed upon the rolls of the Adjutant-General's Department, at Harrisburg, as the "143d," and by the 20th of August clothing and other supplies were issued to the command under that designation. Two weeks prior to this date the Adjutant-General issued the following order:

"HEAD-QUARTERS PENNSYLVANIA MILITIA,  
\*         "ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT,  
" HARRISBURG, August 6, 1862.

"MAJOR ROY STONE,—Wm. M. Dalgliesh, of Allegheny County, and George M. Cullen and Benj. F. Janney, of Philadelphia, having been appointed second lieutenants of companies, under the provisions of the first paragraph of General Order No. 75 of the War Department, of July 8, 1862, you will please muster them into the service of the United States as such.

A. L. RUSSELL,  
"Adjutant-General Pennsylvania."

It is possible that B. F. Janney was mustered in accordance with the above instructions, but, if so, the fact does not appear in the roster of the 150th as given in Bates's "History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers," where September 1, 1862, is fixed as the

date of his muster, as *captain*. Following Bates as an authority, Lieutenant Chalkley W. Sears, of F Company, was the first officer of the regiment to be mustered into the United States service, August 9, 1862, being named as the date of his muster. The next oldest officers by priority of muster were Adjutant Richard L. Ashhurst and Assistant Surgeon James Fulton, whose rolls were dated August 20.

As all of the original recruiting papers seem to have passed out of sight, if not out of existence, it is, at this distance of time, difficult to determine who were the nominal heads of all of the ten companies started in Philadelphia for Colonel Wister's proposed regiment. For the same reason it would be hard to tell by whom the first recruits were obtained. From the best information to be had, it is probable that among the earliest enlistments were some for Company A, effected in Germantown by Harvey Fisher, who became second lieutenant. Whether this bright and energetic young officer aimed at putting on foot a company of his own is not now known, nor is the inquiry important. Joining forces with Cornelius C. Widdis, who, with the assistance of influential friends, had obtained a large list of recruits, and with W. M. Taylor, likewise of Germantown, the roll of Company A soon approached completion, Widdis receiving the captaincy and Taylor the first lieutenancy.

Simultaneously with the formation of A, George W. Jones began, in Germantown, to raise the company which became B in the regimental organization. He had seen active service in the West, having enlisted in Colonel Phelps's\* regiment of Missouri volunteers, and fought under Sigel at Pea Ridge. The captain was very successful in getting men, and in four or five days entered about eighty on his list.

---

\* Colonel Phelps, who was a member of Congress, and wielded the sword without other than his civil pay, had his feelings greatly outraged by the loss of all his slaves through the instrumentality of General "Jim" Lane.

The other Philadelphia companies were of slower growth, and eventually it became necessary to weld several of them together in order to complete the two which subsequently became E and F. Many military bodies were in process of formation at that time, but they "materialized" slowly, in spite of a modest pecuniary inducement which had begun to be held out by the municipality to stimulate enlistments. The number of persons ambitious to wear shoulder-straps was out of all proportion to the number of those who were willing to handle the musket. As a consequence, skeletons of companies, loosely articulated, abounded, and these in many instances fell asunder, —the parts to be gathered into new organizations with scarcely more solidity than the first.

Benjamin F. Janney, William S. Pine, Henry W. Gimber, William A. Elsegood, and others were actively engaged in recruiting companies for the new regiment in the city proper. Each controlled a considerable number of men, but each found great difficulty in filling up even to the minimum required by the law. When, under pressure from the War Department, it became imperative to hasten the completion of companies, in order that the proposed regiment might take the field, the veteran Pine—an ex-sergeant of marines, who had circumnavigated the globe under Commodore Downes, in the years 1831 to 1835, participating in the attack on the Malays of Quallah Batoo, in the island of Sumatra, in 1832—consented to unite with Janney on condition of receiving the first lieutenancy. J. Quincy Carpenter, who was also instrumental in adding recruits to the same command, was made second lieutenant.

Gimber's progress in procuring enlistments had been slow and laborious, and the prospect was far from encouraging. By a series of transactions, into the particulars of which it is unnecessary to enter, an imposing contribution was made to his company, of men enlisted chiefly at Phoenixville by Chalkley W. Sears, who became second lieutenant; and William A. Else-

good was induced to turn over his recruits bodily to the same company. Of Elsegood, Sergeant William R. Ramsey says, "He had his recruiting office in a shoe store belonging to himself or his father, on the west side of Third Street, above Chestnut. It was run by Edward Kates, who was afterwards a corporal in Captain Gimber's company." The sergeant adds that he himself enlisted under Elsegood. The latter had been a line officer in the 66th Pennsylvania Volunteers, which by a series of misfortunes was never filled up to the required standard, and after a brief term of comparatively uneventful service was, March 3, 1862, broken up and merged into the 73d and 99th Regiments, Elsegood receiving the position of first lieutenant in Company H of the 99th. Bates's History states that he was promoted to the captaincy May 12, 1862, and resigned July 4 of that year.

Adjutant Ashurst was of inestimable assistance in effecting the several consolidations mentioned, thus assuring the completion of four companies for the regiment. It is not too much to say that this able young staff-officer, in whose selection Colonel Wister was peculiarly fortunate, was the controlling spirit in all the negotiations by which the Philadelphia wing of the organization was moulded into shape, bringing to his delicate task the intelligence, enthusiasm, patience, and diplomacy essential to success. Embarked in the practice of the law under the most favorable auspices, with every prospect of early distinction in his profession, and with home ties of unusual strength and attraction, it is in the highest degree creditable to his patriotism that he should have withdrawn from the many interests which claimed him to serve his country in the field.

Incidentally it may be stated that the regimental recruiting office was on the north side of Chestnut Street, between Fifth and Sixth Streets, and the regimental head-quarters at No. 131 South Fifth Street, in the law office of William Rotch Wister,

Esq., a brother of Colonel Langhorne Wister, who labored diligently to promote enlistments, and was serviceable in many ways. It may be interesting to recall the fact that the regimental head-quarters of the 121st Pennsylvania Volunteers, which was being raised at the same time, were in the same building, just across the hall-way, in the law office of Chapman Biddle, the first colonel of that regiment. The adjutant of the 121st, the lamented Thomas M. Hall, sat just across the entry at a desk corresponding to that used by Adjutant Ashhurst. Thus early in their history began the association and companionship of the two regiments, destined to be continued in friendly rivalry on many a toilsome march and on more than one bloody field.

The ranks of Companies E and F were still far from full when those of A and B had nearly attained their maximum. To further the work of obtaining men an expedient was adopted—not entirely new or original—which resulted most satisfactorily. A huge furniture car of the platform variety was hired for the purpose, tastefully decorated with the national colors, and showily placarded with appeals to “**Enlist in the Bucktail Brigade!**” From poles planted in the body of the van hung a seductive array of bucktails to be bestowed upon the expected recruits. With ample provision of horses and martial music, this gigantic vehicle, in charge of Captain Janney, Sergeant Bringhurst, and others, assisted by Captain Jones, began its journey through the principal streets, attracting attention wherever it appeared, and preceded and followed by the usual throng of the unemployed, forever on the watch for the latest excitement. Its progress was a triumph, bringing resolution to many who had been balancing between the desire to serve their country and indisposition to leave their homes and families. The car rolled on to the music of the drums and fifes, which grew in intensity at every moment, catching the spirit of the recruiting officers, whose appeals could scarcely

have been more impassioned if they had been preaching a new religion. By nightfall many men had been gathered in, to whom the record of the original Bucktails was familiar, and who were proud to decorate their hats with an emblem so favorably known in our own army and so highly respected—if not feared—by the enemy.

About a week before the close of August the several companies were settled in camp near Nicetown, on Logan's farm, commonly known as "Stenton," not far from the point at which Fifteenth and Cayuga Streets now intersect each other. Logan's Run separated their tents from those of Collis's Zouaves (114th Pennsylvania), who were awaiting orders to march. Prior to this time Captain Jones had quartered and subsisted many of his men at Napfle's Hotel, at the corner of Wister Street and Germantown Avenue (then "Duy's Lane" and "Main Street"), at a considerable expense to himself; while Captain Widdis's company remained at their homes, or boarded among their friends, with the understanding that if the government eventually commuted their rations for this period, the money should go to them. Mention is made of this circumstance because it has an important bearing on an incident which occurred later in the history of the regiment, and which will be recorded in its proper place. During the brief encampment at Nicetown, Sergeant Bringhurst handled the commissary stores for the entire command, and tradition has it that even at this early day, when inexperience might have been presumed to guarantee fairness and honesty in such a position, methods of deriving profit from soldiers' rations were speedily discovered and freely practised.

Some of the consolidations already referred to were effected at this point, and here, too, loud murmurs of dissatisfaction arose when marching orders came before the bounty promised by the city had been paid. While the withholding of this money would probably not have prevented the movement of

the command, it was generally recognized that these expressions of discontent were well founded, and that the pledge of the municipal government should be kept. Principally through the good offices of William Rotch Wister, Esq., sufficient funds were raised to cover one-half of the stipulated sum, which was distributed among the men, and it was promised that the remaining half should be forthcoming at an early day. Thus all unpleasantness was allayed, and much hilarity prevailed at Stenton before the tents were abandoned.

## CHAPTER II.

## TO HARRISBURG—REGIMENTAL ORGANIZATION.

ON Monday, September 1, Companies A and B broke camp and marched to West Philadelphia, where they took train for Harrisburg. Collis's Zouaves had already gone, their departure hastened, no doubt, by the condition of affairs before Washington, where Pope—more from others' fault, perhaps, than his own—had conducted a hopeless campaign. On Tuesday evening, September 2, about eight o'clock, Companies E and F followed the example of their comrades, and, marching to West Philadelphia, started by rail for Harrisburg about half-past eleven, arriving there at daylight and rejoining the first two companies at Camp Curtin.

If, in speaking of the command, the four Philadelphia companies have been designated A, B, E, and F, it is not that the designation of any company had, as yet, been absolutely fixed. A tacit understanding seems to have existed that Widdis's and Jones's companies were to occupy the flanks, and to be A and B respectively. As already stated, the regimental organization was borne upon the papers of the Adjutant-General's office as the 143d. Sufficient evidence of this may still be found in the pigeon-holes of the War Department, and, if further proof is needed, it is found in a certificate still in the possession of Sergeant William R. Ramsey, which appears to have been written in Philadelphia, dated after the company reached Harrisburg, and endorsed still later by Colonel Wister. This document originally read :

"I do certify on honor that William R. Ramsey is a member of Company C, 143d Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers.

"H. W. GIMBER,  
"Commanding Company C.

"PHILADELPHIA, September 3, 1862."

As it now appears, the "C" is crossed, and the figures "150" are marked over 143. This certificate is another evidence that Colonel Wister originally contemplated the formation of a purely Philadelphia regiment, whose framework was duly laid, but which failed to reach the fulness and symmetry of a perfect structure. It also shows that Captain Gimber's company expected to occupy the position of "color" company in the battalion. Indeed, without any intention of censuring its ambitions, it may be remarked that the Quaker City element of the regiment seems to have been willing to accept whatever places of honor or profit were going. Six more companies, however, were needed to round out the organization, and until these were secured the alphabetical designations necessarily remained uncertain.

About the time of the arrival of the first instalment of the Philadelphians there reached Camp Curtin four companies from Crawford County, which had been recruited under proper authority for the Bucktail Brigade by Captain Henry S. Huidekoper, of Meadville, in person, or with his co-operation. Three of these were from Meadville, commanded by Captains H. S. Huidekoper, John B. Fay, and J. W. H. Reisinger; the fourth came from Titusville, commanded by Captain John W. Sigler. A fifth company had been raised at Conneautville, in the same county, by Captain A. J. Mason, avowedly in Huidekoper's interest; but for some unexplained reason it was assigned to the 145th Pennsylvania.

Much less difficulty seems to have been experienced in recruiting in Crawford County than in Philadelphia, though nearly the same inducements were held out at each end of the

State. The machinery for drafting was almost ready to be set in motion, and this fact was skilfully used to hasten voluntary enlistments. On August 6 this handbill was struck off, and within a day or two posted throughout Crawford County:

## **"BUCKTAIL BRIGADE.**

---

**600,000 MEN CALLED OUT!**

Drafting commences Aug. 15.

---

### **H. S. HUIDEKOPER**

has been authorized by Gen. Stone to raise  
a Battalion of

### **FOUR COMPANIES FOR THE BUCKTAILS.**

All Companies, parts of Companies and Recruits  
reporting immediately

**AT MEADVILLE,**

will be provided for and be sure of a place in the  
Bucktail Brigade.

**Enlist Now and Receive the Bounty of \$25,**

one month's pay in advance, and \$75 at the end of  
the war, and not wait to be drafted into a poor regi-  
ment and receive no bounty.

The County will probably give her Men \$50 apiece.

---

### **H. S. HUIDEKOPER**

**WISHES 100 MEN TO FORM A SELECT  
COMPANY.**

---

The Battalion will probably receive its arms, etc.,  
immediately, and be encamped in Meadville for four  
weeks. All men enlisting in this Battalion will be sure  
of the best care, and can have money at all times trans-  
ferred to their families free of charge.

MEADVILLE, PA., Aug. 6, 1862.

(Journal Print.)"

In less than three weeks of actual recruiting time the battalion was ready, and on August 27 the following poster appeared:

**"BUCKTAILS!"**

ALL MEN WHO HAVE ENLISTED IN  
HUIDEKOPER & DERICKSON'S CO.,  
REISINGER & SHAW'S CO.,  
J. B. FAY'S CO., or CAPT. ZEIGLER'S CO.,  
MUST REPORT THEMSELVES AT  
MEADVILLE ON  
MONDAY, SEPT. 1ST,  
TO BE IN READINESS TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY  
FOR HARRISBURG.

Aug. 27, 1862."

They reported, and reached Harrisburg on the 2d of September.

With so large a body of men under his control, and with influential friends to assist him, Captain Huidekoper might properly have asked for, and could easily have obtained, command of a regiment, had he been so minded. In fact, he was sent for by Adjutant-General Russell and informed by him that upon the recommendation of Captain Tarbutton, commander of Camp Curtin, he was to have the colonelcy of a regiment then forming. This he declined on account of the engagements which he had entered into with his own men and the promises he had made to the parents of many of them. When, however, the Adjutant-General offered him the lieutenant-colonelcy of a regiment to be commanded by Colonel Wister, he at once accepted the proffered position, pleased with the

prospect of being associated with a superior officer of excellent social standing, approved courage, and ample military experience. These two gentlemen had never met, nor had any correspondence passed between them, until they were brought together to arrange the details of the regimental organization. On the 4th of September these details were completed. Captain Henry W. Crotzer's company, from Union County, recruited chiefly at Lewisburg and Mifflinburg, and Captain Horatio Bell's, from McKean County, were added to the eight from Philadelphia and Crawford, making the total of the command about 928.

Entirely without his knowledge, and with no previous intimation from any quarter of the probability of such an appointment, Captain Thomas Chamberlin, of Company D, 5th Pennsylvania Reserve, was named by Secretary of State Slifer for the position of major, and the proposition favorably received by the other field-officers. Captain Chamberlin, like Captain Wister, had served since the spring of 1861, participating in the Peninsular campaign, and was at this time in hospital at Baltimore, after a brief sojourn in Libby Prison, recovering from a severe wound received at the battle of Charles City Cross Roads (otherwise known as "Glendale" and "Fraser's Farm").

On the afternoon of the day on which the regimental organization was effected Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper led the command to the arsenal, in Harrisburg, where it received its arms and accoutrements. The arms were Enfield rifles, a weapon of fair workmanship, and quite superior to the Harper's Ferry altered musket, with which so many of the Pennsylvania troops were originally supplied. It was open, however, to some of the same objections, being a muzzle-loader, of too limited a range, and unnecessarily heavy.

Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper received for these supplies, as he did for all stores of every kind drawn by the regiment, its

nominal head being still a captain on recruiting service, from which he had not yet been relieved. Among the articles received was a stand of colors—the national ensign—of very inferior silk, which gave small promise of holding out long, even with careful handling. Of State colors there was at that time an absolute dearth, and the regiment was not provided with one bearing its numerical designation until a month and a half later:

A choice of several numbers for the command was offered to Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper, who selected "150" (as he himself states) because it was a "good round number." The old designation, "143d," under which uniforms and rations had been issued to the Philadelphia companies, naturally fell away on their arrival at Camp Curtin; but its use for even so short a time was not without troublesome consequences. Another 143d Regiment was soon in the field, and the confusion arising from the mingling of the papers relating to the two commands, in the offices of the State and national War Departments, entailed no small labor on Adjutant Ashhurst, who accomplished the task of straightening the record during the autumn.

Adjutant Ashhurst and Quartermaster Arthur S. Voorhis reached Harrisburg close on the heels of the four Philadelphia companies, and from that moment knew no rest. Dr. Michael O'Hara, a brother of Bishop O'Hara, of Scranton, had not yet been mustered as surgeon, but Assistant Surgeon James Fulton was present to relieve such pains and aches as fell to the lot of the men from the miscellaneous food and indifferent shelter of Camp Curtin. Marching orders speedily followed the distribution of arms, and the command was promptly in motion, overjoyed to learn that its destination was Washington.

## CHAPTER III.

## CONCERNING THE "BUCKTAIL BRIGADE."

MAJOR STONE's plan looked originally to the raising of at least four Bucktail regiments for his brigade, but such was the pressure for fresh troops at the front, and so limited the time allowed him for effecting enlistments, that but two regiments were completed—the 149th and 150th—when he was ordered to take the field. Nor was all sunshine in his efforts to realize his cherished project. With no intention of detracting from the good name or fair fame of one of the nation's illustrious defenders, it may be stated that Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas L. Kane (afterwards brigadier-general and brevet major-general of volunteers), whose aim to succeed Colonel Charles J. Biddle in the command of the 1st Pennsylvania Rifles ("Bucktails") had been thwarted by the election of Captain Hugh W. McNeil to the colonelcy, in the winter of 1861-62, on hearing of Major Stone's movement, bestirred himself to prevent the latter from obtaining what he (Kane) had heard, or *dreamed*, was to be an *independent command*, and also to deprive it of the use of the distinguishing badge adopted by his own regiment, to which he seemed to think the latter had the exclusive right and title. Exactly what representations he made to the Secretary of War it would be unprofitable to try to ascertain; but that obstacles were thrown in the major's way can easily be inferred from the following telegraphic and written correspondence:

[*Telegram.*]

“WASHINGTON, D.C., August 13, 1862.

“TO GENERAL RUSSELL, FOR MAJOR ROY STONE.

“Have just seen authorities here and corrected the error induced by inquiries and protests of Colonel Kane. If General Russell advises, *publish Governor's authority.* Am expecting copy of my letter to General Russell.

J. H. PULESTON.”

“HEAD-QUARTERS PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS.

“WASHINGTON, D.C., August 16, 1862.

“TO MAJOR ROY STONE.

“MAJOR,—There is no occasion for doubt or misunderstanding as to the Bucktail Brigade.

“Authority from the Secretary of War to raise an independent command was not solicited, and such authority has not, to my knowledge, been claimed.

“The Secretary gave the assurance that the Bucktail regiments, if raised by the authority of the Governor, should be accepted and kept together as one brigade. This assurance was based upon the request of Adjutant-General Russell, made through me.

“As there is nothing in General Buckingham's note to conflict with either the assurance of the Secretary of War or the authority given you by the Governor, there can be no difficulty or misunderstanding about the matter, especially as you have also the authority of the Superintendent of Recruiting Service in Pennsylvania, to whom you were ordered by General McClellan to report.

“Respectfully,

“J. H. PULESTON.

“*Military Agent of Pennsylvania.*”

It has been deemed proper and advisable to introduce this correspondence to show that difficulties had to be overcome in organizing this new command, and to bring into relief the intelligence and activity which were displayed in putting two regiments on foot—in spite of opposition—in the incredibly short period of twenty days. At the beginning of the struggle this would scarcely have been worthy of remark; but the first great wave of patriotic emotion had passed, popular enthusiasm had greatly abated, and the war was beginning to be an old

story. Then, too, a long series of defeats had had a depressing influence on the country, and enlistments are never so spontaneous as in moments of victory. Nor must it be forgotten that at the same time a score or more of other regiments were being recruited in various parts of the State, drawing their supply of men from every village and settlement, however isolated. All this lends brilliancy to Major Stone's achievement.

Another object is aimed at in the production of these and the letters and despatches previously introduced. Claims having been made by surviving members of the 1st Pennsylvania Rifles, and by a few persons who belonged to other organizations, that the 149th and 150th Regiments were not entitled to the name of "Bucktail," it has seemed proper to show:

*First.*—That Colonel McNeil, of the 1st Pennsylvania Rifles, urged the formation of the Bucktail Brigade, and gave the project encouragement and assistance.

*Second.*—That Major Stone and Captain Wister, who recruited and subsequently commanded the two regiments, were original "Bucktails."

*Third.*—That the brigade was *raised as a "Bucktail Brigade" by the authority of Governor Curtin, with the approval of the Secretary of War*, whose express assurance was given that the "Bucktail regiments should be kept together," and with the *endorsement and co-operation of the United States Superintendent of Recruiting in Pennsylvania*.

If any other evidence were needed of the right of the command to the emblem worn by its members, and the appellation "Bucktail," it is found in the fact that in all the records of the State, in the records and publications of the War Department, and in Bates's "History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers," the 149th and 150th are designated as "Bucktail" regiments. Their claim is therefore as valid as that of the 1st Rifles, with even an added shade of "official" recognition. If there were anything in their conduct during the war to be ashamed of, it could easily

be understood why their title should be disputed ; but the story of their deeds is too clear to bring a blush to the cheek of the most exacting patriot, whether civilian or soldier. There was mortification enough, and glory enough, for all in those years of campaigning ; and while the 150th claims no share in the enviable record made for itself by the 1st Rifles, and has no desire to profit by even a distant reflection of its fame, it asks for the undisturbed enjoyment of the name to which State and national authority entitles it, and of such honor as accrued to it from its own conduct and achievements.

## CHAPTER IV.

## ON TO WASHINGTON—IN WASHINGTON.

ON Friday morning, September 5, about seven o'clock, the regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper (Colonel Wister not yet having been relieved of his duties as a recruiting officer), took train for Washington, but, encountering some delays, did not reach Baltimore until the middle of the afternoon. The march through the streets to Camden Station was full of interest to the entire command, many of whom saw the beautiful city for the first time. In passing along Baltimore Street the minds of all reverted to the scenes of disorder and bloodshed which marked the passage of the first Northern soldiers through Baltimore in 1861. Now the tone of the people was strongly loyal, and the regiment on its march was greeted with every sign of sympathy and good feeling. Substantial citizens joined the column and, accompanying it over the route, expressed their gratification at the sight of such a re-enforcement—which they declared looked more like a brigade than a regiment—moving towards the capital, then felt to be in danger.

At the Camden Station there was a considerable delay, of which the men took advantage to stretch their limbs and partake of a comfortable supper. Late in the night a fresh start was made, and the train arrived at Washington about day-break. The journey was without important incident, but its very slowness, coupled with the loss of sleep, was excessively fatiguing, and the regiment was glad of a few hours' repose at the "Soldiers' Rest." Here Colonel Huidekoper received

orders to report with his command to General Casey, whose head-quarters were at the south end of Fourteenth Street, not far from the beginning of the Long Bridge. Thither the regiment marched, only to receive instructions to move out north of the city, in the direction of Frederick. Starting about mid-day, it proceeded by way of Seventh Street, and, after accomplishing a distance of five or six miles under the pleasurable impression that it was about to join the Army of the Potomac, its course was arrested by orders to return to the capital. This was a great disappointment, for which, however, there was no help, and the column dragged its slow length back over the road by which it had come, wondering—as inexperienced soldiers will—whether the military authorities of the department “knew their own mind.”

The first march of a regiment with its full equipment is necessarily a trying one, and the exhaustion of the men of the 150th, on again reaching the city, led many of them to estimate the distance traversed that afternoon at twenty miles or more, when in reality it did not exceed twelve or fourteen. Adjutant Ashhurst is of the opinion that the command was to halt at the “*Soldiers’ Home*,” outside of the city; but by a misunderstanding it was led back to the “*Soldiers’ Rest*.”

Night had fallen when the latter place was reached, and as neither tents nor other means of shelter were at hand, the regiment bivouacked at will on door-steps, pavements, and open lots, wherever a blanket could be spread to advantage or a body overwhelmed with fatigue could stretch itself to rest.

On the following morning, September 6, the regiment was placed under the control of General Wadsworth, then Military Governor of the District of Columbia, by whose orders it proceeded to Meridian Hill and established a camp in a large grove, at a point about one-fourth of a mile southwardly from Fourteenth Street. West of this grove was a considerable stretch of open ground, somewhat broken and irregular in its surface,

but fairly well adapted to drilling purposes. Tents were promptly supplied for quartering both officers and men. The shelter of the trees on warm afternoons was very grateful, and the good taste and ingenuity of the members of the several companies were soon apparent in the attractions and comforts which distinguished the camp. Here Colonel Wister, who had been relieved from his mission as a recruiting officer and mustered on the 5th of September, joined his command and assumed his proper functions.

Guard duty at some of the neighboring hospitals at once absorbed the services of a large portion of the regiment, several companies being detailed at a time. The men who were left in camp were industriously exercised in squad, company, and battalion movements, so that all in turn received much-needed instruction. The disintegration of the command, however, began before the camp was fairly established. On the 6th Companies C and H were ordered to the Soldiers' Home, where President Lincoln and his family were then staying, to relieve some "regulars" who were on duty there; but, either from a misunderstanding of the order or ignorance of the location of the Home, they proceeded to the large frame building known as the "Soldiers' Rest," near the Baltimore and Ohio Dépôt. The regulars having left the Home, and no troops appearing to take their place, an aide was sent to the camp of the 150th to see what had become of the promised detail. Companies D and K were then promptly started for the Soldiers' Home, under proper guidance, and C and H were recalled to camp.

Companies D and K pitched their tents in a small sloping field, or paddock, just outside of the neatly kept grounds of the Home, but in view of the buildings. Their especial duty was to guard the premises and look after the safety of the nation's chief, whose life was even then believed to be more or less in danger. Here Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper visited them each day, inspecting the guards, instructing the men off

duty in company evolutions as well as in the manual of arms, of which latter he was a complete master, and generally laboring to promote the discipline and efficiency of both officers and privates.

A few days after taking command of the regiment, Colonel Wister received a message from General Wadsworth, asking him if he could furnish an active and intelligent young officer for temporary duty on his staff. Lieutenant J. Q. Carpenter, of Company E, was selected, and, in an interview with the general, made a sufficiently favorable impression to be at once detailed as an aide. General Wadsworth was at that time the Republican candidate for Governor of New York, but, being defeated at the polls some weeks later by Horatio Seymour, and requesting to be sent to the field, he was relieved from his position as Military Governor of the District of Columbia and put in command of the First Division of the First Corps, then at Belle Plain. General Martindale succeeded him in the military governorship, and, his staff being complete, Lieutenant Carpenter rejoined his company.

On the 12th of September Company F was sent to Carroll Hill to perform guard duty at Old Capitol Prison,—a service which gave it occupation until the 23d of October, when it was transferred to Harewood Hospital, where its duties were of a more monotonous nature. While at Carroll Hill details were made from its ranks from time to time, to escort bodies of rebel prisoners to Fortress Monroe, by boat, and sometimes up the James River to the vicinity of Richmond, where exchanges took place under the supervision of the federal and rebel commissioners. In turn, most of the members of the company were accorded "outings" of this kind, which they greatly enjoyed, although the excursions were not without occasional unpleasant features.

About the same time that Companies D and K were assigned to special duty at the Soldiers' Home, Company C was ordered

to the War Department, where its tents were raised on the greensward just inside of the iron fence which separated the grounds from Pennsylvania Avenue. The remaining companies were permitted to linger at Meridian Hill some weeks longer.

Dr. Michael O'Hara reported for duty about the middle of September, having been commissioned as assistant surgeon on the 12th of that month. He had had experience as assistant surgeon in the United States navy, and had practised medicine with success in Philadelphia. Being thus well qualified for his position, it was not surprising that he should, within a few weeks (November 13), be advanced to the rank of surgeon.

On the 23d of September, Major Chamberlin was mustered and went to camp. At the time of receiving his commission in the 150th he was still in hospital at Baltimore, quite lame from his Peninsular wound; but, learning that the Army of the Potomac had passed into Maryland to head off Lee's invading column, he asked for and obtained his discharge from the hospital, and, hurrying to Washington, sought the earliest means of reaching his old command, the 5th Pennsylvania Reserve. Nothing better offered than a seat in the wagon of the regimental sutler, which he promptly accepted, and after a fatiguing ride of an afternoon and night, succeeded in joining the regiment, then bivouacking near Frederick. Here he was made acting major, and being kindly supplied with a horse by Adjutant Mason (subsequently brevet lieutenant-colonel on General Meade's staff), was enabled to participate in the battles of South Mountain and Antietam. When it became apparent that Lee's army had escaped into Virginia, and that no further fighting was imminent, he sent in his resignation, to accept promotion, and returning by way of Harrisburg to Washington, joined the 150th. To him was immediately intrusted the care of the companies at the Soldiers' Home, and up to the 22d of October he visited them each day, inspecting the camp and guards and exercising the men in all the more important company and

battalion movements. Here he several times witnessed the arrival of the President, who, after the onerous duties of the day at the White House, was driven to his summer retreat in an open carriage, accompanied by an insignificant detail of cavalry from "Scott's Nine Hundred" (generally nicknamed "Scott's Blind Thousand"). Here, too, he frequently met little Thomas Lincoln, vulgarly known as "Tad," who spent much of his time in the camp, in which he seemed to have a weighty sense of proprietorship. The President also was not an infrequent visitor in the late afternoon hours, and endeared himself to his guards by his genial, kindly ways. He was not long in placing the officers of the two companies at their ease in his presence, and Captains Derickson and Crotzer were shortly on a footing of such marked friendship with him that they were often summoned to dinner or breakfast at the Presidential board. Captain Derickson, in particular, advanced so far in the President's confidence and esteem that in Mrs. Lincoln's absence he frequently spent the night at his cottage, sleeping in the same bed with him, and—it is said—making use of His Excellency's night-shirts! Thus began an intimacy which continued unbroken until the following spring, when Captain Derickson was appointed provost marshal of the Nineteenth Pennsylvania District, with head-quarters at Meadville. First Lieutenant Thomas Getchell succeeded to the captaincy of the company.

Of their service at the Soldiers' Home one of the most pleasing recollections of Captain Crotzer and his men is of the unvarying kindness of Mrs. Lincoln, who arranged, among other things, that a midnight luncheon should always be ready for the guards on duty, as in turn they were relieved from their posts. Nor can they forget their first Sunday in the little camp, remote from the stir and noise of Washington, when, having been drawn up in line in the bright morning sunshine, their captain reminded them that, though removed by their military duties from the sweet influences of family and church, they

must not disregard the teachings of their youth or unlearn the views which they had ever held and practised in reference to the sanctity of the Christian Sabbath. Then followed reading of the Scripture by the captain, and Private Peter Stahl closed the impromptu service by invoking the Divine blessing to rest upon the company, upon the armies of the republic, upon the government, from its illustrious head to the humblest in public station, to the end that peace might be speedily restored and the country, reunited, go forward in a career of prosperity.

A few hours later President Lincoln sent for Captain Crotzer and, grasping him warmly by the hand, assured him that he was more than gratified to learn of the incident of the morning, adding that when he heard of it he said to Mrs. Lincoln that "*with a good God and Father above and a praying company of men to guard them and their home, they need fear neither men nor devils!*"

## CHAPTER V.

## SOCIAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

ON account of the fragmentary condition of the command, the field-officers were by no means overburdened with work, and found abundant time—particularly in the evenings—for social enjoyment. Each had his circle of acquaintances in the city, into which the others were duly introduced; and many an exhilarating gallop from the camp to town, in the twilight, was followed by pleasant hours of intercourse with interesting people, paving the way, in some instances, to life-long friendships. Quite a number of visitors of both sexes found their way to the camp, to call on one or another of the officers, and these were received with uniform courtesy and regaled with the best that the limited stores of the mess-chest afforded. “Small cheer and great welcome make a merry feast,” and some of the callers were so well pleased with their entertainment that an offer of civilities in return was a natural sequence. Thus invitations to one or two small evening gatherings were extended to the field and staff and promptly accepted.

Among those who had tasted the hospitality of the camp, and desired to reciprocate the attentions there received, was a family from the interior of Pennsylvania, which had drifted to Washington at or before the beginning of the war, its head having through political influence obtained a comfortable clerkship in one of the government departments. The husband and father was of a type not infrequently encountered,—smallish in stature, but of expansive girth at the waist, with a broad, unctuous face, and a crown marked by a Sahara of baldness which extended

from brow to cerebellum, offering unlimited possibilities for water-color or other decoration. His eyes were hardly large enough for a head of such generous mould, but had a merry twinkle about them which lent him an air of good-nature, emphasized to a certain extent by a striking expanse of white waistcoat and immaculate linen over a liberal area of chest and aggressive stomach. His manner was that of one who "knows it all," and jokes and stories of a pungent flavor adorned his conversation, furnishing at all times visible satisfaction to the speaker, if not to the listener. His wife was a spare, delicate-looking creature, who in the service and companionship of such a master had lost whatever claims she may have had to beauty, and in her timid ways bore evidence of her bondage. Two daughters, just grown to womanhood, had blessed their union, and were attractive enough with the comeliness of youth; but, sharing in the disposition of the father rather than in that of the mother, they were self-asserting beyond their years.

These persons appointed an evening on which they should "esteem it an honor to entertain the principal officers of the 150th, and introduce them to a few friends." The invitation was accepted, and at the designated hour those included in the summons, in full regimentals, entered an appearance, arriving early, as requested. They found the house largely illuminated and wearing a festive air, but as the other guests had not yet arrived, they were first ushered into the "library," whose claim to that distinction was apparently founded upon the entire absence of books. Here they were cordially received by their host of the civil service, who, it was evident at a glance, was in an advanced state of exhilaration. The "honor" had proved too much for him. After a profusion of compliments, wine and more substantial tipple were produced, the old story of the general and the field-glass and corkscrew gayly aired, and the success of the regiment duly toasted. With many smiles and significant winks the host enumerated the various liquors which

he had provided for the occasion, and would have insisted on having them all "sampled" on the spot had not his guests broken away to the "drawing-room," at the suggestion of the young ladies, who announced the arrival of the "few friends." The head of the house must have indulged in the sampling process on his own account, for above the noise of conversation his voice could be heard from time to time, growing constantly louder in its utterances, indicating a rapidly rising degree of intoxication. Nearly an hour had passed when his swaying form appeared in the door-way of the drawing-room, where, by a series of ludicrous winks, gestures, and grimaces, he endeavored to entice his military friends to the library, to join him in his potations. He was put off, however, by the words "a little later," and returned to his solitary cups. Presently sounds of grumbling came from his direction, suggestive of disappointment; then exclamations of impatience, with a suspicion of profanity in them; and finally everybody was painfully conscious that the head of the house was hopelessly drunk. The young ladies strove bravely to drown the objectionable noise by lively conversation, and a loosely strung piano lent its assistance to the same desirable end; but the disturbing ejaculations continued with greater violence, until embarrassment was painted on every face and the small talk ceased altogether. Then the timid wife plucked up courage enough to remonstrate firmly, and by arguments whose tenor could only be conjectured the boozy member was persuaded that he was "out of order," and induced—with necessary support—to go to bed.

For the ladies of the family, as well as for the guests, the pleasure of the evening was shipwrecked, and as soon as the inevitable "refreshments" had been served the military portion of the company pleaded the necessity of an early return to camp, and promptly took its leave.

On the 16th of October, Captain B. F. Janney, of Company

E, resigned from the service, and Lieutenant William S. Pine was commissioned captain, of the same date.

Under the pretence of wishing to enlist in the regiment, but really for the purpose of plundering, one of the numerous "sharps" who then infested the national capital came to the camp and attached himself to one of the companies. Before the time for his muster arrived he was detected in some act of thievery and promptly dragged to the guard-house for safe-keeping. It was decided that he should be drummed out of camp, and one pleasant afternoon in October, a little before sunset, bareheaded, with his jacket reversed, and decorated in front and rear with large placards on which were painted the word "THIEF." he was escorted by the drum-corps, to the tune of the "Rogues' March," through the open ranks of the regiment, beyond the limits of the grove, with the admonition never to show his face in the neighborhood again. The jeers and laughter of the men followed him until he was out of sight, and the salutary lesson thus taught him by the 150th doubtless cured him of any desire to practise his profession further in military circles.

On the afternoon of October 21 several companies of the 150th marched to the camp of the 149th, where the two regiments were drawn up in line to receive the long-delayed State colors. Secretary Thomas made the presentation speech on behalf of Governor Curtin, which was chiefly remarkable for its length, while the replies of Colonels Stone and Wister were brief and appropriate. After the presentation of the flags three vigorous cheers were given for Governor Curtin, and the troops returned to their quarters.

## CHAPTER VI.

## DETAILS FOR DUTY—BREAKING UP OF THE CAMP.

ON the 22d of October, by order of the provost marshal of Washington (Major W. E. Doster, of the 4th Pennsylvania Cavalry, subsequently brevet brigadier-general), Major Chamberlin was detached, and appointed to the command of the troops in Georgetown, consisting of eight companies of infantry, drawn from the 135th and 149th Pennsylvania and 2d District of Columbia Volunteers. His head-quarters were at Forrest Hall, at the corner of Gay and High Streets,—a large building, the greater portion of which was occupied as a dépôt for deserters arrested in all parts of the country. From this point, after due examination and identification, the prisoners were sent from time to time, under guard, to the regiments to which they belonged. Lieutenant Andrew B. McLain, adjutant of the 135th, acted as adjutant of the post.

During the same month Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper was detailed as a member of a court-martial, whose presiding officer was Colonel Porter, of the 135th Pennsylvania, and whose sessions continued during a great part of the winter.

It was not long until the larger portion of the regiment had been detailed, by companies, to permanent guard duty in different parts of the city, necessitating the breaking up of the camp on Meridian Hill. Companies E and I were sent to Cliffburne Hospital, and later, in turn, to Campbell Hospital and the Baltimore and Ohio Dépôt. While on duty at the dépôt they were encamped on North Capitol Street, near the Government Printing-House. Company H served also at Cliffburne Hos-

pital and at other points. Company A was established at the Soldiers' Rest as early as September 26, where it was joined by Company D before the President and his family returned to the White House for the winter. Company K, which had commended itself to the Chief Magistrate by the companionableness of its captain and the admirable behavior of the men, was, at his request, continued as his especial guard. The following note, written by him, was of course accepted by the Military Governor and the War Department as possessing all the force of a positive order:

"EXECUTIVE MANSION,  
"WASHINGTON, November 1, 1862.

"WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

"Captain Derickson, with his Company, has been for some time keeping guard at my residence, now at the Soldiers' Retreat. He and his Company are very agreeable to me, and while it is deemed proper for any guard to remain, none would be more satisfactory to me than Captain D. and his Company.

A. LINCOLN."

Bates, in his "History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers," states that this note was written in consequence of the wish of the field-officers, as well as of some of the members of Company K, to have this company "ordered to the front to rejoin the regiment, as the strength and efficiency of the command was, in a measure, impaired by its absence," etc. As the regiment did not leave Washington for the front until the middle of *February, 1863*, and the note bears the date of *November 1, 1862*, it will be seen that this statement was an error. Captain Derickson's excellent standing with the President sufficiently explains this written expression of the latter's feeling.

When, a few days after the above note was written, the President returned to the White House for the winter, Company K joined in the "flitting," and pitched its camp on the lawn a short distance south-east of the mansion. Here it remained during the war.

Companies B and G continued in camp at Meridian Hill

until November 10, when they, together with the field and staff, moved to a large vacant lot at Fourteenth and I Streets. On the following morning another change of base took place, and the tents were put up at the corner of L Street and Vermont Avenue. It seems that the other lot was immediately in front of the home of the Secretary of War, who (as the adjutant surmised) had the bad taste to dislike being aroused by reveille at 6.30 A.M.

The men were snugly quartered in the new location, and here the formality of guard-mounting was kept up, though the daily duty of a large portion of the command lay at one or another of the numerous military hospitals. The quartermaster established his head-quarters and stores at the new camp, and dispensed a generous hospitality to his numerous friends.

On the 18th of November, Assistant Surgeon James Fulton was transferred to the 143d Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, Assistant Surgeon Henry Strauss, who had been mustered on the 19th of September, replacing him in the 150th. The 143d had arrived on the 11th of November, and had been placed under General Casey. Colonels Stone and Wister bent their efforts to have it brigaded with their commands, under Stone, in which they had the hearty co-operation of Colonel Puleston and of the officers of the 143d. When, a few months later, these regiments took the field, their wish was gratified.

Colonel Wister and Adjutant Ashhurst, having no mandate for special duty, and finding themselves comparatively without occupation, wisely determined to make themselves as comfortable as possible, and rented a furnished house on M Street, near Twelfth. Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper enlisted also in the enterprise and shared the running expenses of the establishment. In this modest military home they were joined by Mrs. Ashhurst, the adjutant's young and accomplished wife, together with her infant daughter, Miss Harriet, who was thus

adopted, in a manner, as the "Daughter of the Regiment." With a sufficient corps of domestics, Mrs. Ashhurst assumed charge of the housekeeping, and presided over her military family with such grace and ability that the house became a not unimportant social centre, and a delightful rallying-point for friends of the field and staff who visited Washington during the winter.

It was here that Colonel Wister gave a reception on New Year's Day, 1863, which was largely attended by his military friends as well as by many from civil life, and proved an immense success. The memory of the eggnog which graced the occasion still lingers fragrantly with those of the participants who were fortunate enough to survive the perils of the war, and, fondly recalling the pleasant conviviality of the evening, the few remaining officers of the 150th are entitled to indulgence if now and then they murmur to themselves, in the plaintive language of Hans Breitmann, "Vere is dot barty now?"

While thus enjoying the comforts and pleasures of a home, the colonel and adjutant were not unmindful of the scattered command, but kept themselves thoroughly informed of its condition, and so far as possible endeavored to see that proper discipline was everywhere maintained. With this end in view they visited the several points at which the companies were stationed, to inspect the arms, clothing, quarters, and conduct of the men, and spur the officers to a careful and conscientious discharge of their duties. This was the more necessary on account of the many allurements which the capital held out for indulgence in idleness and dissipation.

On one occasion, while visiting the camp of Companies B and G, Colonel Wister found Captain Jones, of Company B, acting as officer of the day, and accompanied him on a tour of the camp-guard to observe the bearing of the men on post and ascertain whether they were fully instructed in the ceremonial part of their duties. All went satisfactorily until they reached

one of the sentinels belonging to Company G, who, seeing the officers approach, brought his piece to a shoulder and, facing outward, threw his left hand across his breast to the gun-stock, the usual salute for a line-officer.

"Why don't you present arms?" asked the colonel. "Don't you know the proper salute for a field-officer?"

"I wasn't salutin' you," retorted the man; "I was salutin' 'Cap' Jones."

The colonel's stern look dissolved in a smile which brought in evidence his superb teeth, and he moved on without a word of censure; but "Cap" Jones was admonished to use especial pains to enlighten the guards on all matters of military etiquette.

Company B was soon after ordered to join F for duty at Harewood Hospital, and G being likewise detailed for similar service in another part of the city, the 150th as an organized body was temporarily in eclipse.

The scattering of the regiment and the breaking up of the camp at Meridian Hill were doubtless beneficial to the health of the command, which had suffered frightfully from the unwholesome conditions prevailing in that locality. Between the height and the city proper, at no great distance from the position occupied by the 150th, was a wide belt of vacant ground, marshy in places, but at other points sufficiently firm to form a dumping-place for refuse of every description from the outlying portions of the capital. Various forms of malaria speedily developed among the men, its ravages being especially noticeable in the country companies, nearly one-third of whose numerical strength was presently in the hospitals. One or two officers and many soldiers died during the autumn, while many others were permanently incapacitated for service. First Lieutenant Cincinnatus Topham, of Company B, a young officer of much promise and greatly esteemed in the regiment, died at Washington on the 8th of November. Among the sufferers

from the unwholesome surroundings of the camp were Lieutenants Tryon, Chancellor, and Taylor, of whom the last named laid the foundation of permanent ill health, and was compelled to retire from the service on the first of February following. Even after a change of location, the disastrous effects of their few weeks' exposure to the malarial atmosphere of Meridian Hill were plainly visible in some of the companies, whose dutiable strength was seriously reduced.

During the latter part of October and beginning of November the regiment was several times on the point of being sent to the field,—once through the efforts of Brigadier-General Thomas L. Kane, who coveted the "Bucktail Brigade," and once as a part of General Foster's command in Burnside's coast expedition. On the 30th of October, Adjutant Ashhurst writes, "Colonel Huidekoper saw Colonel Puleston yesterday. The colonel told him that a general of Foster's command had applied to him that day for assistance in getting new regiments to join them at Newbern. He had strongly recommended that General Foster should apply for us and the 149th, which he (Puleston) thought would be done, and with success. He added that he thought about three weeks would bring us orders for North Carolina."

A day or two later the adjutant wrote, "Kane nearly had us. He got the regiments separated, bringing Colonel Wister under him and destroying Colonel Stone's hope of a brigade; but, thanks to Colonel Puleston's friendship and energy, and to our having a commander-in-chief here who outranked the general under whose orders we were to move, we escaped the fate impending for us."

General Kane seems to have succeeded in obtaining an order embodying the 150th in his command, but by the active exertions of Colonel Stone and others in interest the order was speedily undone.

"It was on this occasion, I think," says the adjutant, "that

the letter of President Lincoln, requesting the retention of Company K as his guard, was written. Many of the regiment were so weary of the prolonged inaction, and the wasting of its strength at the capital by disease, that they chafed very much at the countermanding of these orders."

Learning that his regiment was under marching orders, Major Chamberlin at once asked to be relieved from his important post at Georgetown, and returned to his proper command, with which he remained from the 2d until the 18th of November. He was then instructed to resume his position as commandant at Georgetown, relieving Lieutenant-Colonel Drew, of the 2d District of Columbia Volunteers. From this date until the middle of February, 1863, the peaceful monotony of winter-quarters in Washington was undisturbed.

## CHAPTER VII.

## WASHINGTON IN THE WINTER OF 1862-1863.

THE expression "monotony of winter-quarters in Washington," as used at the end of the preceding chapter, is meant to convey an idea of the disappointment and restiveness of both officers and men at being detained, midway on their march to active usefulness and possible glory, to do the work of "parade soldiers," and their unmistakable preference for the toils and dangers of "the front," rather than to describe the impression made upon them by the routine service to which they were assigned, and by their surroundings in the little, great city. Life was anything but monotonous there. As the capital of the republic, the seat of its legislature and of the national treasure-house,—the point to which a majority of the mighty host of volunteers who rose to sustain the government converged, and to which supplies of immeasurable quantity and almost incalculable value were brought to be distributed among the various armed bodies in the field; the centre where plans of campaign were projected, discussed, rejected, or adopted; from which orders were issued to armies and military departments, and to which reports of all offensive and defensive operations were promptly sent,—Washington, the "City of Magnificent Distances," with its comparatively small fixed population, had, long before the end of the second year of hostilities, become the scene of more movement, and occupied greater prominence in the eyes of the people, than any other place in the land. In addition to the distinguished men who were an immediate part of the government, or upheld it in Congress and in the Supreme Court, the

governors of great States were frequently seen in its streets, coming on friendly summons, or of their own motion, to strengthen the hands of the President and offer unstinted aid to the cause of the Union. Prominent citizens of every occupation and profession, from every loyal commonwealth, visited the capital to confer with the heads of departments or with their representatives in Congress, and offer prudent counsel in times of general uneasiness. Distinguished foreigners, and many who were not distinguished, were drawn thither to look at the war from a safe distance and calculate the chances of the success or failure of the side which held their sympathies. Adventurers, foreign and domestic, by scores and hundreds, found it an attractive field for their peculiar gifts, and haunted its hotels and public places in the hope of "striking luck" in some shape or manner, they cared not *what* or *how*. Thousands and tens of thousands of patriotic people, whose sons, or brothers, or other relations were with the active forces in Virginia, gravitated to Washington at one time or another, moved by the desire to see their "heroes," if possible, or get a little nearer to them, and witness something of the "pomp and circumstance" of actual war. Many were there to comfort their own flesh and blood, or minister to their wants, as these lay wounded or sick in the numerous hospitals. Tens of thousands of others, equally patriotic,—who knows?—drifted to the capital, as they would have drifted to some famous summer resort, out of mere curiosity and to see or hear something new.

At all times the streets of the city presented a pleasing succession of kaleidoscopic effects. Now a regiment or two of new troops on their way to the front, with full ranks in bright, fresh uniforms, marched through some of the principal streets with drums beating and colors flying, preceded, followed, and almost surrounded by an admiring and noisy crowd of idle negroes recently from Dixie,—already known as "contrabands," and persuaded that they counted for something in this great na-

tional upheaval. Now a long train of government wagons with canvas tops, drawn by a mixed force of horses and mules, and laden with every kind of army supply, moved in creaking procession along Pennsylvania Avenue, laboring through ruts that were as frequent and almost as dangerous as the crevasses of a Swiss glacier. Now a battery of artillery or a squadron of cavalry, led by cheery bugle notes, swept over the same broad but hopelessly swampy thoroughfare, arresting the attention of the thousand saunterers on its sidewalks and calling the not too busy trades-people to their windows and doors. Sometimes, but not often, a brigade or division of veterans from the front, with bronzed faces and clothing that told plainly of long marches, night-watches, bivouacs, and mud, as their tattered flags told of hard-fought battles, marched proudly through the city to the music of their bands, gladdened by the plaudits which met them at every turn, on their way to new fields of activity in the South or West. At all hours, by day and night, mounted officers and orderlies, with clanking sabres, dashed hither and thither, bearing verbal or written messages to or from the War Department, the head-quarters of the military governor, or the numerous fortified posts in and around the capital. On the streets, and particularly on Pennsylvania Avenue, the national uniform was nearly as frequent as the costume of the civilian, and a simultaneous raid throughout its length, at any reasonable hour, would doubtless have resulted in the bagging of a score of brigadier-generals, an entire company of colonels, and a regiment of officers of inferior rank. The showy trappings, borrowed from European armies, with which a General Blenker or a Colonel d'Utassy paralyzed the beholder in the earlier period of the war, were no longer to be seen anywhere, having given place to the more modest dress prescribed by the "Regulations," then an inexorable foe to the pleasing element of variety.

Washington was not then the grandiose city that it is to-day.

With the exception of the Capitol, the Treasury, and a few other important structures, there were no buildings which presented any particular architectural merits, and most of them bore contemptible proportions to the generous plan of the city, giving an impression, to the visitor, of a place which had utterly failed to grow up to its opportunities. Even the Washington Monument, now the most striking memorial shaft in the world, helped to deepen this unpleasant impression, having ceased to rise at a height of between one and two hundred feet, and looking more like a ruin than a triumph of the builder's art. Yet the town was full of life, full of business and social enterprise, with a feverish desire on the part of its permanent and transient population to be amused. In spite of the "horrors of war," and in the face of depressing reverses to our arms, people ate, drank, and were merry. Gautier's and other prominent restaurants coined money, and Harvey's steamed-oyster establishment with difficulty supplied its clamorous customers. Hotel bars and drinking-saloons flourished as they had never flourished before. The theatres, such as they were, drew good houses, irrespective of the merits of the plays presented by their managers. Not that there were not, from time to time, good plays and good companies, for the finest stars, both theatrical and operatic, visited Washington, as they visited all cities which held out the allurement of gain; but mediocrity was the rule, startling talent the exception. At times there was an embarrassment in the choice of amusements. Forrest, no longer of the athletic frame and thunderous voice which in earlier years had so well fitted him for the "pet" characters in his *répertoire*, might be heard heaving his unfathomable sigh as *Othello*, at the "National," while at the "Old Washington" one might roar with continuous laughter at the brilliant puns of "Pocahontas," spoken by its author, John Brougham, and such inimitable associates as Joe Jefferson, Chanfrau, and John Sleeper Clarke.

But the resort *par excellence* of the soldier and transient visitor was the "Variety Theatre," managed by one *Sinn*, whose name, perhaps, would not have been less appropriate with the final "n" omitted. This theatre had the virtue of cheapness, and a license in the dress and speech of its "artistes," which especially commended it to the pockets and tastes of the men who carried the musket. They wanted diversion of a pungent flavor; songs which reminded them of home and their own youthful escapades and courtships; jokes of a broadly suggestive kind, touching (and sometimes passing) the border line of propriety; and sharp hits at the sometimes too obvious mismanagement of our armies. All this they had here, to say nothing of the graceful gambols of Julia Mortimer and the Pennoyer sisters, in costumes of such scantiness as brought into bold relief their shapely limbs and alluring busts. The closing song and tableau, in which the "whole strength of the company" appeared, were invariably of a patriotic character, and emphasized with such a profuse display of the national colors, and such vigorous waving of the stars and stripes, that nightly the audience broke up in a tempest of enthusiasm.

Many gambling-houses existed in Washington at that time, and to those acquainted with the sport of "fighting the tiger," their entrances were easily recognizable after night. Some of these dens were luxurious in their appointments, with the added attraction of a free lunch of the best that the markets afforded, and those who frequented them night after night were counted by scores. The sums which changed hands in a few hours were often large, and many a poor devil of an officer who had come to the city on a two days' leave of absence, with ample provision of money for his expected needs, found himself under the necessity of borrowing from his friends or resorting to his "uncle" to meet his hotel bill and legitimate expenses, in consequence of an ill-advised visit to one of these seductive "midnight banks."

In spite of the depressed state of public feeling which followed the abortive attack on Fredericksburg and the memorable "mud march," social gayety was the rule in Washington; and while expensive balls were not frequent, many an improvised dance took place at Willard's and other large hostellries, graced by the presence of some of the fairest and most distinguished women in the city, with whom the dashing young officers on duty in the District were glad of an opportunity of whirling in the waltz, or charging over the luxuriously carpeted floors to the spirited music of the Lancers. Society regretted the gloomy military outlook, but ate and danced and slept as if the national sky were all rose color. Society had faith in the resources of the government and in the final success of our arms. While society reposed serenely after its pleasant fatigues, the government never slept. At the White House night was often turned into day, and the vigilant eye of the nation's chief was upon every movement of the great military game upon whose issue the life of the republic depended. In the bureaux of the Secretary of War the telegraph never ceased its tick. At the Treasury the sturdy form of the old "watch-dog," General Spinner, might be seen at his desk at midnight and in the small hours before the dawn. Thus, while throughout the city the sounds of merry-making went on by night as well as by day, there was also to be found, in the proper quarters, that "eternal vigilance" which is the "price of liberty."

But what has this to do with the history of the 150th? Only that the 150th saw or knew much of what has been thus rudely shadowed, and the memory thereof will be a pleasing one to the latest survivor of the regiment to his dying day.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## TO THE FRONT—BELLE PLAIN.

AT last, about the middle of February, came the welcome order to join the Army of the Potomac. Shortly before, the regimental camp had been fixed on North Capitol Street, a few squares north of the Baltimore and Ohio Dépôt, and here the several companies—except K, which remained at the White House—were again brought together before the start for the front. On the 14th the various details were relieved from guard duty, and hurriedly packed and disposed of their surplus “belongings,” so as to be ready to move at a moment’s notice. Three days’ rations were prepared and distributed the same day.

On the morning of the 15th the 149th and 150th gathered on the banks of the Potomac, and after much delay embarked on the steam-transport “Louisiana.” The morning was raw and gloomy, but both officers and men were in great feather at the idea of going to the front, and an incessant fire of jokes well reflected their state of feeling. Rain, followed by a light snow, had fallen in the night, and the tread of eleven hundred pairs of muddy shoes (for that was about the strength of the combined regiments) soon covered the decks and cabins with a disagreeable coating of slime. A slow but pleasant run of six hours brought the boat to Aquia Creek at nightfall, where it was announced that the troops would remain on board until morning. The “Louisiana” offered rather limited accommodations for so many men, and with all the authority exercised by the non-commissioned officers, aided by an occasional visit from the “line,” the “high privates” could not be prevented

from indulging in such practical joking and such outbursts of hilariouslyness that, even to those who desired and needed rest, sleep was practically impossible.

On the morning of the 16th, after more or less ineffectual efforts to remove the evidences of miscellaneous huddling on pasty floors, the entire force was transshipped on smaller boats and landed at Belle Plain, where it was soon joined by the 151st Pennsylvania, which had come down on another transport, nearly a thousand strong. Ranks were presently formed, and the 150th filed through the mud and over the hills, past Fort Thunderbolt, to a small grove of stunted pines on a hill-side about two and a half miles inland. Here the regiment halted, stacked arms, and prepared to encamp. The 149th and 151st, which followed a little later, found positions to their liking in groves of larger trees near by. On the same day the three regiments were brigaded together, under the command of Colonel Roy Stone, of the 149th, forming the Second Brigade of the Third Division, First Army Corps. The evening was mild and pleasant, and, sitting around their bright camp-fires, the men, pleased with their new experience and with the visits of old friends who had passed the winter in the field, made the woods resound with patriotic songs and cheers, until the inexorable "taps" drove them to their quarters.

During the night a heavy snow-storm set in, accompanied by a fierce wind, and continued with unabated violence all the next day and night, covering the ground to the depth of a foot. It was a rude welcome to the field. On the morning of the 17th, in the midst of the storm, nearly one-half of the regiment was detailed for picket service on a line some miles distant, and for the first time began to realize how much pleasanter, after all, was their humdrum duty, with comfortable quarters, in the city of Washington. That evening, probably on the recommendation of competent medical authority, orders were sent down through the "proper channels" to distribute a ration of

whiskey to the men,—an article previously unnamed in the scanty list of gratuitous luxuries from time to time supplied by the commissary department. So far as the men in camp were concerned, it was an easy thing to make the distribution; but with night descending, a foot of snow on the ground, obliterating all roads and paths, the snow still falling, and no guide to the picket line, how was the cheering beverage to be parcelled out to those walking their lonely beats on the banks of the Rappahannock, or across the broad acres of the rebel Secretary of War, Seddon, whither the line stretched in its irregular windings? The determination and genius of the regimental quartermaster, Voorhis, were equal to the emergency. Summoning to his assistance one or two of the most faithful of his non-commissioned staff, and accepting Lieutenant Beckwith, of G Company, as a volunteer aide, the whiskey was transferred to canteens and these divided among the party, who, equipped as for arctic explorations, and mounted upon the choicest animals at the quartermaster's disposal, set out in the darkness on their mission of mercy. Lieutenant Beckwith was naturally the leader of the expedition. Long experience in the mountains and lumber-camps of Pennsylvania had familiarized him with the work of following trails, and, but for the wind and blinding storm, he would probably have led his little band with unerring directness to its destination. Here his woodcraft was comparatively unavailing. Roads and by-paths were utterly erased by the masses of drifting snow, and not a landmark was known to any of the party to aid them in following a fixed direction. As a consequence, they strayed,—strayed widely,—and only after hours of toilsome wandering, during which it became necessary to draw on their supplies for bodily warmth and spiritual encouragement, were they successful in stumbling on one of the sentinels and obtaining information which enabled them to reach the reserve. Here they were welcomed with becoming warmth, especially when the object

of their visit became known, and rumor runs that, either from sudden joy at the discovery of their comrades or excessive thankfulness at their escape from unseen dangers, one or two of the gallant little band were quite "too full for utterance."

The portion of the command which had been left in camp was not idle, even during the storm, but busied itself with the axe among the young pines, preparing material for permanent housekeeping. The pickets, who returned after a tour of duty lasting two days, at once joined in this important work, and before many days had gone by the entire regiment was snugly settled in huts that defied the winter weather.

In the absence of Colonel Stone, Colonel Wister assumed command of the brigade on the 17th, by order of General Doubleday, Adjutant Ashhurst performing the duties of acting assistant adjutant-general. Lieutenant Charles P. Keyser replaced the latter as acting adjutant. A plentiful crop of orders began to appear, and the officers who handled the pen at brigade and regimental head-quarters had no sinecure.

On the 19th of February the 143d Pennsylvania, Colonel E. L. Dana, of Wilkesbarre, commanding, arrived from Washington and replaced the 151st, which was transferred to the First Brigade. The 135th Pennsylvania, Colonel Porter, had also been added to the same brigade, which then consisted of four regiments, including, in addition to the two already named, the 121st Pennsylvania, Colonel Chapman Biddle, and the 142d Pennsylvania, Colonel Robert P. Cummins. The division, which was commanded by Major-General Abner Doubleday, contained at that time but two brigades,—seven regiments in all, and all Pennsylvanians.

Colonel Stone arrived on the 19th and took command of the Second Brigade, relieving Colonel Wister. At his urgent instance, Major Chamberlin consented to act as assistant adjutant-general until everything should be in good working order, and occupied the position for the next two or three weeks. The

colonel had been married quite recently, and his wife came to share his quarters as soon as they were established. Between the issuing of orders to his brigade and his attentions to his estimable spouse, Colonel Stone was one of the busiest and happiest officers in the Army of the Potomac.

As soon as the camp was in thoroughly good condition and the snow had disappeared from the ground, as it did in less than a week, the drills of the 150th became almost incessant. The mornings were usually devoted to company exercises, superintended by one of the field-officers. These were followed by skirmish movements, in which several companies participated, every movement being regulated first by verbal command and then by the corresponding bugle notes, until the men were sufficiently familiar with the latter to dispense with oral orders.

A portion of the afternoon was occupied with regimental drill, in which the utmost possible precision was aimed at in executing each order, whether in the manual of arms or in the active field manœuvres. As a consequence, the progress of the regiment was rapid, and its discipline was soon in marked contrast with that of some of the older commands. Of the old troops in the neighborhood, it was painfully evident that many had lost spirit, and that the enthusiasm of the entire army had been seriously tempered by the total failure of the operations under General Burnside. The appointment of General Hooker to succeed him did something to correct this depression, but for several weeks the weather was such that the men were compelled to remain in idleness in their camps, and the influence of the new commander could not be felt. Regimental officers seemed to share in the *moral* fatigue which followed Fredericksburg and the mud march, and, when days of sunshine occurred and the ground was sufficiently firm for drilling, were slow to take advantage of the opportunity to exercise and improve their commands. Colonel Stone's brigade was not permitted to lapse into this condition of demoralizing repose, and

from the moment of its arrival at Belle Plain might reasonably have complained of too much hard work and too few holidays. The good effects of this constant activity were speedily apparent to the rank and file, and their daily duties were performed with such cheerfulness and zeal that their example seemed to grow contagious. In adjacent camps the sound of drum and bugle began to be heard at unwonted hours. The lethargy which had fettered them gradually yielded to a spirit of emulation, and drills became the order of the day on every hand.

It must not be inferred from what has been hinted of an obvious loss of enthusiasm on the part of many of the old troops that they were wanting in patriotic impulse, or at all mutinous in their disposition, or sceptical as to the final outcome of the conflict, or that their courage was in the slightest degree attainted. Their condition was the natural result of a rebound from too great tension of mind and body in a campaign which had taxed their utmost powers and ended in disaster. They were exhausted and dazed. Under other circumstances their recovery would have been rapid, if not immediate. A few days of rest and then a resumption of the usual company, battalion, and brigade exercises in the open field, under a clear sky, would have effected a perfect cure. But circumstances were unfavorable. Long-continued rains and alternate freezings and thawings had converted the camping-ground of the army into a vast mud-hole, which thwarted the plans and intentions of its commanders and doomed the men to almost absolute inaction. The roads over which the supplies for this immense force had to be hauled were like mortar-beds, of such depth and consistency, in places, that both wagons and teams were in danger of being swallowed up; and, indeed, many a poor mule, bearing on his flanks the initials of his country, sank in the red ooze never to rise again. But for the corduroying, which had been extensively resorted to on the principal highways, the work of feeding such an army

would have presented almost insuperable difficulties. As it was, the problem of properly provisioning the several corps rested like a nightmare on the minds of both officers and men of the subsistence department, driving them at times to the very verge of lunacy. *À propos* of the roads, Adjutant Ashurst says, "The principal avenue of communication between the various divisions, and with army head-quarters, was a corduroy road, built in a long, deep gully or watercourse, which was aptly nicknamed the 'Valley of the Shadow of Death.' It was probably the worst corduroy ever known. Its sides were strewn with the skeletons of dead horses and mules, and so rotten were many of its logs, and so full was it of holes, that the rider who ventured to traverse it involuntarily breathed a prayer that his own and the bones of his steed might not be added to those which already garnished it. But such as it was, until the sun began to dry the hill-sides and valleys, this dreary route was the best and almost the only practicable highway connecting the flanks of the army."

This was the condition of things at the time of the arrival of the 150th, whose members were therefore not surprised, while picking their way to their proposed camp, to be accosted by some of the weather-stained veterans with such remarks as, "No more Sunday soldiering, boys." "You'll soon get enough of it." "Wait till you've had a mud march or two!"

A few bright, clear days in the latter part of February, and long spells of sunny weather in March, worked a marvellous change. With them came the dry ground and the general activity which proved to be the medicine needed by the troops to stimulate their relaxed energies and restore to their former healthy and aggressive tone their jaded spirits. The mind and hand of the new chief began to reach out to every portion of his command, repairing and reshaping the great military machine intrusted to his care, on which the hopes of the country so largely centred. All went well.

## CHAPTER IX.

## VARIOUS HAPPENINGS IN AND OUT OF CAMP.

AMONG the officers detailed to serve upon the staff of General Doubleday, commanding the division, was Second Lieutenant John Huidekoper, of Company E, 150th Pennsylvania Volunteers, who was made acting topographical officer,—a position for which his foreign education (he was born and reared in Holland), as well as his subsequent experience as a civil engineer, well fitted him. He had been a sergeant in Company E, 5th Pennsylvania Reserve, but was discharged in October, 1862, to accept promotion in the 150th, his muster in the latter regiment dating October 31. In his own command and also at division head-quarters he was familiarly known as "Shacks," the designation arising from his imperfect pronunciation of his own nickname, "Jack," which his Dutch tongue was unable to handle correctly.

In his new capacity Lieutenant Huidekoper made careful surveys of the roads and principal outlines of the country lying between the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers, in the neighborhood of the camps of the First Corps; but his observations frequently extended many miles beyond the lines occupied or picketed by the troops. On one occasion, when he had gone an unusual distance from his base, he was approached by a couple of mounted field-officers of another division, who had been reconnoitring on their own account, and who found him sitting on his horse, leisurely transferring to paper the salient features of the district around him. As they rode up, one of them exclaimed, "Good God! Huidekoper, is that you? We're awfully glad to see you, for we're completely lost."

"Shesus Grist!" replied "Shacks," without so much as lifting his pencil from the paper, "so am I!"

Hurriedly finishing his sketch, however, and carefully taking his bearings, he piloted his friends safely back to camp.

In a letter written February 23 the adjutant states that he is having a hut built for an office, Sergeant Clark Wells, of Company G, having charge of its construction. He adds, "Colonel Stone has been pouring in orders faster and faster."

On the 24th he writes, "This afternoon the log hut is finished, and is a very fine thing. Old Wells has outdone himself. The fierce flow of orders is drying up, I think, but it may be only a temporary lull. . . . The tendency of the sickness of the men is to *enteritis*, but the sick-list is very small,—only twenty in the regiment. To be sure, we got rid of our worst cases in Washington, but we started to bring good out of evil when we availed ourselves of the detail made on us of forty men for various duties, to send off the lame, halt, blind, the drunken, the very aged, the deaf, the incurably lazy and wholly worthless; so that, except when they detailed the men by name,—which they did in about six or seven cases, when, of course, they took the very best,—our superiors did not make much out of us."

In a letter dated March 7 the adjutant states, "We have a good deal of sickness, but not so much as other regiments around here, and our total per cent. for duty, with nine companies, is almost as large as that of the 149th with ten companies. We have two cases of small-pox,—one, I am sorry to say, the handsome Corporal Mudge [Henry A. Mudge, of Company I, subsequently sergeant, killed at Gettysburg, July 1, 1863] who used to bring our letters. . . . I have a new clerk now,—Elvidge, of Company A,—a nice boy, who writes fast and pretty well, and is very handsome, which first attracted my attention to him."

During the winter of 1862-1863 the Democratic press of the

North was especially active in its efforts to hinder the administration in a determined prosecution of the war, and to create dissatisfaction not only at home but in the field. Its utterances found but a feeble echo in the army, which, to its everlasting glory, was firm in the belief that *the rebellion could be suppressed* and in its purpose to *suppress* it. In the 150th the feeling of resentment towards the "enemy in the rear" grew in bitterness each day, until it could no longer be contained. On the 8th of March, at the urgent instance of the company commanders, Adjutant Ashhurst prepared a paper, which was signed by every field-, staff-, and line-officer present with the regiment, requesting Colonel Wister to call a meeting of the command for the purpose of giving expression to its sentiments. The meeting took place, and what was said and done is thus related by the *Washington Chronicle*:

"ANOTHER REBUKE.

"CAMP NEAR BELLE PLAIN, March 12, 1863.

"A meeting of the officers and soldiers of the 150th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers was held at the regimental head-quarters on the eleventh day of March, 1863, in pursuance of the following call, signed by all the officers of the regiment:

"The undersigned, officers of the 150th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, respectfully request Colonel Wister, commanding the regiment, to call a meeting for the purpose of expressing our earnest loyalty and devotion to our country, and our detestation of the Northern traitors now endeavoring to paralyze the efforts of the army in the field, and insidiously to overthrow their country's cause."

"Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper was called to the chair, and Adjutant R. L. Ashurst appointed secretary.

"The object of the meeting having been stated by Major Chamberlin, after appropriate and patriotic remarks by Colonel Wister, Adjutant Ashurst, Lieutenant Huidekoper, Private Philip Hammer, Company A, Lieutenant William P. Dougal, Company D, and Quartermaster A. S. Voorhis, the following preamble and resolutions, offered by Major Chamberlin, were unanimously adopted amid great enthusiasm:

"WHEREAS, After nearly two years of the most patriotic sacrifices on

the part of our people and the most desperate trials and struggles on the part of our army to restore our shattered Union and maintain our national honor, our government finds itself assailed by a class of persons at home who would yield it, Judas-like, into the hands of the enemy, or sully it by a dishonorable compromise with the hosts of treason, and who are even now trying to induce the masses to resist its lawful authority in order the sooner to gain their hellish ends; therefore,

“*Resolved*, That we hereby express our firm and unalterable devotion to our government and its laws, and declare our determination to stand by it at all hazards, pledging to the restoration of its entire authority “our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”

“*Resolved*, That we look upon all proposals, from whatever source, to give up this struggle on any other terms than the unconditional submission of the traitors in arms against their country as disgraceful to those who originate and to those who for a moment lend an ear to them.

“*Resolved*, That we condemn and repudiate as unworthy sons of their country those who, staying at home in the North, are striving to cripple the hands of their country’s defenders; who, under the garb of a false patriotism and an assumed zeal for the Constitution, cavil at all measures calculated to prostrate the rebellion; and who endeavor to hold back and paralyze the strong arm of right, now outstretched to crush the foul treason which attacks the life of the nation.

“*Resolved*, That we have no sympathy or feeling in common with those who, from real or pretended admiration of any man or general, would make their earnestness in their country’s cause, or perhaps their loyalty, dependent on, or subordinate to, their personal feelings; that we are ready and anxious to fight for our country under whatever commander we may be placed, and under none with greater alacrity than our present commander-in-chief.

“*Resolved*, That as we believe that “fighting for Southern rights” means nothing more than warring for the extension of slavery, which we regard alike as a *curse to the land* and a *great moral wrong*, we hail with joy the President’s proclamation doing away with that institution in every State in which rebellion exists, and hope soon to see it forever blotted from our soil.

“*Resolved*, That our feeling towards traitors, both North and South, is one of implacable hatred, and that, while this army has bullets for those at the South, it has also heels broad enough and heavy enough to crush the vile “copperheads” of the North if they persist in their insidious attempts to weaken and overthrow the government.”

“Major Chamberlin; Captain Widdis, Company A; Captain Reisinger,

Company H; Quartermaster Voorhis, and Adjutant Ashhurst were appointed a committee for the publication of these resolutions.

"On motion, adjourned.

"H. S. HUIDEKOPER,

"*Lieutenant-Colonel 150th Regiment P.V., Chairman.*

"R. L. ASHHURST,

"*Adjutant 150th Regiment P.V., Secretary.*"

The same report of the proceedings of the meeting was published in the *Philadelphia Press* and the *New York Tribune*. In the preparation of the series of resolutions, Major Chamberlin and Adjutant Ashhurst collaborated. The gathering took place a little before sunset, on the brow of the hill on whose side the company quarters were located, and presented a noteworthy picture, officers and men mingling like so many citizens at a political rally at home. Here, however, there was no division of opinion. Those who had been known as Democrats before entering the service were now emphatic in their denunciation of the attitude of their old party. The meeting broke up in the twilight with cheers for the Union, the President, the army,—for everything loyal,—and the effect was good and lasting.

On the same evening, attracted possibly by the cheers from the camp, Captain O'Rourke, of the 1st Regiment Pennsylvania Reserve, came to visit his old friend, the major, and over a glass of the mellowest "commissary" rehearsed, in language full of color, the story of Burnside's disastrous attack on the heights of Fredericksburg. A short time before that event the ambulance service in the army, which had been indifferently managed under the direction of the medical department, was thoroughly reorganized, with a view to its greater efficiency. The captain was detailed to take charge of the ambulances of the First Corps, and in that capacity rendered such important service during the progress of the battle as to receive the warmest commendations from corps, division, and brigade com-

manders. After relating at much length the part which he had had in the fight, the captain wound up by saying, "When they first proposed to me the command of the Ambulance Corps, I thought it an infayrior and maynial position; but I found it a place for great achayvements and high considerations!" With his rich Irish brogue and earnest manner (stimulated, perhaps, by the contents of his glass), this peroration was inimitable.

As the camp of the regiment lay upon the side of a hill with a pretty sharp slope, it had the advantage of quick drainage in wet weather, and never became uncomfortably boggy. The health of the command was generally good. During the month of March a few cases of varioloid developed among the men, but those attacked were speedily removed to a field hospital at a safe distance, and the disease was readily checked. Measles also appeared in one or two companies, but by the prompt action of the medical department this scourge was also prevented from spreading. Among those who were treated for this latter complaint was Lewis, the colored cook at regimental head-quarters, who continued to perform his duties as cook and waiter until his face bore unmistakable evidence of the nature of his ailment. Singularly enough, every member of the head-quarters mess was spared. Surgeon O'Hara and Assistant Surgeon Henry Strauss easily looked after all the cases of sickness in the camp, and for the most part the several companies presented themselves with fairly full ranks for the purposes of drill, review, and inspection.

On the 17th of March the adjutant writes, "We lost another man last night,—Sergeant Tanner, of Company E, a very fine fellow. He came down here when he ought to have gone to the general hospital. We applied for a furlough for him a few days since, the exposure here having utterly prostrated him, but it came back approved too late. He had only an hour or two to live, poor fellow! We got it last night about 9.30; he died early this morning."

On the 19th of March the field and staff were completely upset by the receipt of the following announcement, close on whose heels came the order giving effect to the President's decree :

"The President directs that Captains Widdis and Jones, 150th Pennsylvania Volunteers, be dismissed the service, and all back pay be stopped, for drawing pay on false and fraudulent accounts.

"L. THOMAS,  
"Adjutant-General."

The captains named were highly prized for their intelligence and efficiency, and the regiment could ill afford to lose them. Coming without a previous note of warning, this cruel order fell with the severity of a trip-hammer blow, for the moment almost stunning the few who had knowledge of it.

Allusion has already been made to the fact that while recruiting his company at Germantown, Captain Jones subsisted a large number of his men at Napfle's Hotel for several days, incurring a bill of some proportions. Captain Widdis's men found board and lodging at home or among their friends in Germantown, with the understanding that if commutation for their rations could be obtained from the government they were to be reimbursed for their outlays. Both captains filed a claim in due form for this subsistence, to which in equity they were clearly entitled. It appears, however, as has been previously intimated, that, without their knowledge, Quartermaster-Sergeant Bringhurst, or some other person, had drawn the rations of the two companies (or the commutation therefor) and diverted the same to his own use, charging them in due form to Jones's and Widdis's commands. No other explanation of the matter seems possible, as all the officers' pay-rolls passed through regimental head-quarters and were found correct; and neither Captains Widdis and Jones nor any other captain had "drawn pay on false and fraudulent accounts." Quartermaster-Ser-

geant Bringhurst deserted in January, 1863, and this fact gives strength to the belief that he was at the bottom of the trouble. Of course the War Department, on receipt of the statement of the quartermaster (Ruff) at Philadelphia, showing that the supplies had been duly issued, without inquiring into the details of the affair, jumped to the conclusion that the two officers were endeavoring to defraud the government, and the order for their dismissal followed.

Fortifying themselves promptly with letters and certificates from their superior officers, bearing on the facts of the case and attesting their integrity and soldierly worth, Captains Widdis and Jones hastened to Washington, accompanied by the good wishes of their many friends, and in a few days, with the assistance of Philadelphia Representatives in Congress and other influential persons, succeeded in obtaining an interview with President Lincoln, who, after a full hearing of their side of the case, issued an order for their reinstatement. Quartermaster Voorhis, who went to Washington in their behalf, proved a valuable re-enforcement, seconding their efforts with great intelligence and ability.

On the 1st of April they returned to camp, where their appearance was the occasion of much rejoicing. It is needless to add that not a dollar of their claim was ever recovered from the government.

Concerning the arbitrary dismissal of the two captains, Adjutant Ashhurst wrote, on the 21st of March, "I drew up a communication from the colonel to the adjutant-general, setting forth their good qualities and earnestly appealing for a trial for them. Colonel Stone approved it in a very handsome endorsement. General Doubleday approved and forwarded it, and we left it with Lieutenant-Colonel Kingsbury, who promised that General Reynolds should endorse it up. The staff-officers at head-quarters all expressed great sympathy and indignation at the dismissal."

On the 25th he wrote, "Colonel Wister and I have been out to visit the picket line. We had a delightful ride. The weather is thoroughly spring-like, alternately cloudy and sunshiny. Doubleday wanted a piece of woods cut off that projected over on our picket line, furnishing a fine cover for an attack. I went out to give instructions to have it cut away. I have a conversation of about ten minutes with the general every morning, when I receive a vast deal of information as to the art of war. The general is a fine theorist. He is said to be slow in the field, and perhaps he may be, but he has many fine qualities, is very careful of his men, very painstaking, and is evidently zealous in the cause. He is a very urbane, courteous gentleman also.

"A large quantity of baggage from our regiment has been packed and loaded to-day, to go to Washington."

Second Lieutenant George de V. Selden, of Company H, having been appointed to the same grade in the 2d United States Cavalry on the 31st of March, at once tendered his resignation as an officer of the 150th, and being notified of its acceptance early in April, left for his new command.\*

On the 8th of April, Surgeon O'Hara resigned and returned to his practice in Philadelphia, leaving the health of the regiment to be cared for by the two assistant surgeons, Strauss and Henderson. The latter, who had been assigned to the 150th on the 29th of January, was himself in indifferent physical condition, and saw little service with the command. He was discharged on the 30th of June following, on certificate of disability.

During the month of April the First Corps—indeed, a large portion of the army—was abundantly supplied with fresh fish,

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\* Lieutenant Selden was a very gentlemanly young officer,—bright, alert, and well fitted for his position. He died September 17, 1863, of wounds received at Gettysburg.

chiefly shad, rock, and herring, of admirable size and quality, from the government fisheries at Aquia Creek. These were a welcome addition to the ordinary rations, and doubtless contributed greatly to the health of the troops. Although not furnished gratuitously, the price was put so low as to be easily within the reach of the enlisted men, who, when off duty, could be seen at almost any hour, singly or in groups, lugger the precious food towards camp.

Spring was now fairly on the way, and a succession of inspections and reviews of the different corps announced that the time for breaking up winter-quarters was approaching. The First Corps, then one of the strongest in the army, was paraded with much pomp and glitter on the beautiful ground of Belle Plain,—which almost seemed to have been created for the purpose,—under the scrutinizing glance of the President and a brilliant retinue of officers, who could not but be favorably impressed with the appearance and marching of the troops. Certainly the latter never looked better, or stepped to the music of the bands with a more perfect alignment or more imposing front. The return route was marked by a snow-fall of paper collars, which, having served their purpose, were discarded at the earliest moment. The white gloves with which some of the regiments were provided were carefully preserved for future use.

After this review, which was held the 9th of April, nothing occurred to disturb the peaceful but busy routine of the 150th until the 20th of that month.

## CHAPTER X.

## NIGHT MARCH TO PORT CONWAY—ARTILLERY ENGAGEMENT AT POLLOCK'S MILLS.

ON the morning of April 20 the several regiments of Doubleday's division were instructed to provide themselves with three days' cooked rations and be in readiness to move in light marching order at a moment's notice. The word was received by the 150th with great enthusiasm, for, although the direction and destination of the movement were unknown, the men were eager to engage in serious work.

The column started late in the afternoon, taking a south-easterly course across the fields for some miles, when it struck a road leading through King George's Court-House, and followed it. Night presently came on, and with it a heavy and persistent rain, soaking the troops to the skin and turning the old Virginia highway into the semblance of a hog-wallow, through which they floundered with difficulty in the darkness. For a long distance the route lay in the woods, and the road being overflowed by one or two swollen brooks which crossed it, the column splashed through water knee-deep, making humorous demands for "gun-boats" with which to continue the journey. Frequently a burst of laughter, accompanied by cries of "Brace up!" told of disaster to some unwary plodder whose foot had turned on a slippery stone, or who had been tripped by a submerged root, dooming him to an unwelcome bath. The men marched cheerfully and well, but in the intense darkness and under such trying conditions it was impossible to maintain the regulation "distance." The column naturally

strung out to an undue length, necessitating frequent halts to enable it to close up. About ten o'clock the head of the regiment overtook the 121st Pennsylvania, or the larger part of it, under Major Biddle, who said the road was impassable; but the 150th pushed ahead and got through. Between two and three A.M. the march was arrested, a few fires were built with much effort, and officers and men stretched themselves in the dryest places that could be found for a little sleep. When morning dawned all presented a woe-begone appearance. Clothing, arms, and accoutrements alike gave evidence of a fatiguing struggle with the pasty soil of the "Old Dominion," and an inspecting officer would have torn his hair from sheer mortification at the spectacle.

Some idea of the intense darkness which prevailed on this march can be formed from the statement of the adjutant that on reaching one stream, swollen by the rain to a roaring torrent, he found the rear battalion of the regiment, under command of the lieutenant-colonel, apparently lost and hopeless on the bank, without light or the means of procuring it, having become separated from the van, which had gone on across the raging flood under the leadership of the colonel. Probably half an hour was consumed before, by the united efforts of officers and men, a light was obtained sufficient to show how the stream might be forded. During the night the rain turned into snow, which probably made the almost fireless bivouac a little more endurable, besides generously casting its mantle over the bedraggled state of the command in the morning.

After an hour or two spent in repairing damages and preparing the much-needed coffee (the meat rations had been cooked before leaving camp), ranks were formed and the brigade continued its march about five miles farther, stopping at a point about half a mile from Port Conway. It was then nearly ten o'clock, and the pontoon train had not yet arrived. After some delay it appeared and moved down to the river, almost

immediately opposite the village of Port Royal, where the men who accompanied it, aided by a liberal detail of pioneers, began stretching the canvas over the frames in preparation for a crossing. For this latter mission the 150th had been selected by Colonel Stone, and quietly awaited the summons to man the boats, first moving down into the fields and taking position behind a church. Captains Widdis and Jones with their companies, under Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper, were to cross above the town, and the rest of the regiment to effect a passage below at the same time. Eight companies of sharp-shooters from the 143d and 149th were to line the banks and cover the crossing with an active fire, if necessary.

On the southern bank of the stream, for a considerable distance above and below Port Royal, rifle-pits had long been constructed by the enemy, and here and there a "butternut" could be seen behind the earthen breastwork, his form with difficulty distinguishable on account of the color of his uniform. In the main street of the village, in front of an hotel, a small group of rebel soldiers was gathered, calmly surveying the movements of the Union forces with the aid of a field-glass. They seemed quite unconcerned, and in all probability, seeing no artillery to cover an intended crossing, quickly inferred that the expedition was a feint. Back on the hills, however, behind the village, a signal-flag was in vigorous motion, conveying news of the movement to the "proper authorities."

The entire absence of field-batteries had not been noticed by Stone's brigade during the harassing night march; but now that the hour for attempting a passage of the river was apparently at hand, and no guns were put in position to protect the boats, the officers most nearly concerned began to "smell a rat," and laughed heartily at their previous stupidity.

Suddenly, while the troops were lolling at ease in the pleasant sunshine, awaiting further developments, the sound of bugles was heard, followed by the clatter of hoofs and the rumbling

of heavy wheels, and a section of artillery was seen approaching from the direction of the woods, at a rapid trot, and turning into the field in rear of the pontoons with an air that seemed to presage immediate business. At the head of the column rode Quartermaster Voorhis, of the 150th, with drawn sabre, accompanied by a bugler, while two or three mounted subordinates of his department, impersonating non-commissioned officers, followed in their proper places beside the guns. Each piece was drawn by four horses with skilful drivers, and each caisson carried its complement of gunners. With the wild sweep of a tornado this unexpected Union re-enforcement came into view of the rebel group at Port Royal, and traversing the broad field with an ominous cracking of whips and piercing bugle blasts, wheeled suddenly to the left, countermarched a short distance, and went into position with the guns bearing on the rebel village. The stentorian tones of the quartermaster as he gave the command, "On the right into battery!" could have been heard a mile away; and but for that tell-tale field-glass at the old tavern, Port Royal might have trembled for her safety. As it was, it scarcely needed a second glance to detect the fact that the guns were *wooden*, skilfully wrapped with ponchos to give them the proper color, and that the caissons were *feed-boxes* carefully disguised by a covering of rubber blankets. The beds of two wagons of the commissary department had been removed, the running-gear uncoupled, and with sections of a stout sapling of suitable length and thickness, it was easy to do the rest. Nevertheless, the quartermaster received the plaudits of the entire division, all admitting that he had acquitted himself superbly and covered his "arm of the service" with glory.

Owing to the lack of rope, thole-pins, and other necessary articles, none of the boats were ready until dusk, when some of them were carried to the river's edge and one or two launched. Meanwhile immense numbers of camp-fires were kindled in all

directions, and every precaution was taken to indicate the presence of a large body of troops.

Soon after nightfall the pontoons were broken up and re-loaded, and the division began its return march. Proceeding a mile or two, a halt was made, fires were built in the woods, and the command bivouacked. About 4.30 A.M. the march was resumed, and with sufficient halts at the breakfast and noon hours for the men to rest and clean up, the regiment reached camp about five P.M. in good condition, having come by a shorter and better road, by which the swollen streams were avoided.

A day or two later a similar expedition was made by a detail from another division, which, properly equipped in the matter of boats and artillery, effected a crossing without opposition, taking a few prisoners.

The object of these movements was evidently to keep the enemy from withdrawing troops from his right, the plans for the movement on Chancellorsville having already been laid.

That General Lee was deceived by these demonstrations is obvious from the circumstance that General Jackson's lines were immediately extended to Port Royal, and his troops were not recalled until the thunder of the guns at Chancellorsville made it plain that Hooker's aim was to turn Lee's left. The deception was the more easily practised from the fact (as stated by Lieutenant Louis R. Fortescue, of the Signal Corps) that early in 1863 the rebels had possessed themselves of our signals, and this being known to General Hooker, he purposely used them to mislead the enemy, who eagerly swallowed the bait. Thus, messages announcing the landing of large bodies of Union troops at a point below Aquia Creek were sped over the flags and promptly interpreted by the enemy. Doubleday's expedition to Port Conway was a part of this scheme of deception.

From this time forward eight days' rations, cooked and uncooked, were required to be kept on hand, compelling the men to store "hard-tack" in their knapsacks (already burdened with

twoscore extra rounds of ammunition), it being a physical impossibility to squeeze a week's supply of provisions into an ordinary haversack. This, more than anything else, foretold with certainty the near approach of an important movement, involving the whole army.

On the 26th of April the adjutant writes, "There is little regimental news. Gimber (captain of Company F) has been highly complimented in General Cutler's report as general officer of the day for his management of the picket line. General Cutler's report was sent down, and I read it at dress parade this morning, together with Colonel Stone's Order No. 12, prescribing the manner of conducting a march. General Doubleday has, I believe, made a report placing the failure of our expedition (to Port Conway) on the pontoons. General Benham, chief of the pontoons, has replied, vindicating his pontoons. In this last report General Benham makes two or three misstatements, maintaining, among other things, that his pontoniers put up eight pontoons in thirty minutes. In the first place, but *six* pontoons were put together. Secondly, this was done mainly by our men, the pontoniers proving useless. Third, this could be done only by fastening them with ropes borrowed from the houses around."

On Monday, April 27, the Eleventh, Twelfth, and Fifth Corps broke camp and began the march towards Chancellorsville. On the following day the Sixth, Third, and First Corps were on the banks of the Rappahannock,—the First at Pollock's Mills, nearly four miles below Fredericksburg, with a pontoon bridge successfully laid and one division (the First,—Wadsworth's) firmly established on the south side; the Sixth a mile or two higher up, with its pontoons also in position, and one division safely across. On Wednesday, the 29th, the Third Corps left for Chancellorsville, the Second moving to Banks's Ford the same day. The First and Sixth rested quietly, awaiting the result of the movement of the main portion of the army. On

Friday heavy firing was heard in a westerly direction, announcing an engagement between Hooker's and Lee's forces.

On Saturday morning, May 2, the First Corps was under arms at a fairly early hour, with orders to proceed to Chancellorsville. For some reason the start was delayed a considerable while, during which some of the enemy's batteries in the fortifications a mile or more beyond the river dropped several scores of shells and solid shot among the troops, causing a general stampede of the colored servants, but resulting in very few casualties. The 150th escaped injury entirely, but Colonel Wister had a narrow "call," a shell dropping within a foot of his horse's nose, as he sat in the saddle waiting for the order to move, and burying itself at the animal's feet without exploding. A day or two previous, when a similar shelling occurred, several batteries of the corps were trained on the rebel fortifications, and an animated duel was kept up for an hour or more, with no noticeable result.

It was on this previous occasion that the 150th was first under fire, and it underwent the ordeal most handsomely. The regiment was resting on a hill-side, in column of divisions, when, without warning, the long Whitworth projectiles began to pass over it with their curious whirring sound, and some to fall unpleasantly near. Another regiment in close proximity, similarly greeted, was stampeded and scattered in most unmilitary confusion. Colonel Wister immediately formed his command, put it through some exercises of the manual and some simple battalion movements, and only then marched it slowly and deliberately to a place of shelter. The effect of this, their first taste of fire, on the men was admirable, filling them with confidence and pride in their own courage and discipline.

Speaking of the occasion when Colonel Wister had so narrow an escape from the shell which struck among a group of officers of which he was the centre, Adjutant Ashhurst says, "On Saturday morning we got orders to move about eight, but just as

we started at the head of the column (the 149th, in advance, was moving out of the hollow to go up the river), the rebs re-opened with shell on us. We halted in the hollow for a few minutes, where we were pretty safe. Only one shell came directly among us, and that came into a group composed of Colonel Wister, our major, Parsons, and myself, but went into the ground without exploding. Had it burst, it would probably have made a clean sweep of us."

About nine o'clock came the order to march, and the column stepped out to the irregular music of bursting shells, which continued to accompany it for at least a mile of the way.

## CHAPTER XI.

## CHANCELLORSVILLE.

THE day was warm and the air so charged with humidity that the slightest motion induced copious perspiration. It was evident from the start that the march would be an exhausting one for both officers and men. In quitting their comfortable huts near Belle Plain the latter had crowded into their knapsacks articles of clothing in excess of the soldier's proper allowance, besides many knickknacks to which they had become attached; so that with a week's supply of hard-tack and the extra forty rounds of ball cartridge superadded, some of the knapsacks assumed the proportions of a pedler's outfit. For an hour or more they bore up bravely under this heavy load, but when the column had passed Falmouth, at every halt, however brief, the contents of their packs were hastily examined, and first one thing and then another discarded, until the road was strewn with shirts, drawers, socks, pieces of blanket, and an endless variety of "plunder." With every passing moment the air seemed to grow hotter, and further measures of relief were studied and practised, until even cherished keepsakes were flung aside with a sigh, in order to accommodate the burden to the capacity of the bearer. A few of the men were caught in the act of removing the metallic eagle from the shoulder-belt which sustained the cartridge-box, but a threat of punishment put a stop to this unwarranted scheme. On moved the column, with faces growing more and more florid and streaming with increased perspiration, weaving in and out among the wagons which encumbered the road in places, and

jaded by abrupt halts and starts when temporary blockades occurred, until at last, when United States Ford was reached, about six o'clock, many of the men seemed ready to drop from sheer exhaustion. All the afternoon they had listened to the sound of artillery, now weak and fitful, now loud and continuous, away in the direction of Chancellorsville, and wished that they might exchange the fatigues of the march for the excitement of the battle-field, with all its possible dangers.

The crowded condition of the pontoon bridge, over which batteries and regiments were streaming in one direction and ambulances laden with wounded in another, necessitated a rest of perhaps half an hour, which was gladly welcomed by the tired men. Then, just as the sun was setting, the brigade crossed the river, and, under orders from a staff-officer, turned to the left, in the shadow of tall forest trees, and prepared to bivouac for the night. It would have been happiness enough for the command to throw off its cumbersome packs, undo its "harness," and roll itself into its blankets, without thought of food or drink, to find in sleep a panacea for the physical trials of the day; but such good fortune was not in store for it. Evidently something was wrong at the front, for the artillery growled more furiously and ominously than ever, and its echoes were multiplied and intensified as they rolled through the thick woods to the banks of the Rappahannock. Again the order was "Fall in!" and "Forward!" and in the fading twilight the column headed through the forest and moved rapidly towards the scene of the firing. Night soon closed in, but the cannonading continued, and before long the crash of volleying small-arms could be distinctly heard. At a distance of two or three miles from the ford the narrow road was blocked by a long train of ambulances, conveying the wounded to the rear; and as the brigade picked its way around the obstruction it was whispered that General Devens, afterwards Attorney-General of the United States, was among those more

seriously disabled. Soon a battery or two, in a seeming state of confusion, interrupted the march, necessitating a momentary halt, during which the troops were instructed to load. From this point forward the forest presented a weird and impressive spectacle. Here and there dead pines were ablaze to the very top, and in the light of these lofty torches each trunk and limb of the solemn trees was distinctly outlined, while thousands of startled whippoorwills made doleful music for the advancing re-enforcements.

Of this night advance Adjutant Ashhurst says, "Fatigued, and indeed utterly worn out as the regiment was with its hot and prolonged march, yet when the order to load was given, and the men realized that they were at last close to the foe and might be engaged at any moment, all weariness seemed to vanish, and they moved forward with a step as light and eager as in the morning. This night march by the light of the burning pines, to the sound of the cannon, was wonderfully picturesque and exciting, and was diversified by the meeting of every kind of returning combatant and non-combatant from the field of battle, who filled our ears with tales of the valor of the Third and the misconduct of the Eleventh Corps. I remember particularly a gallant Irishman of Sickles's corps, who greeted us as we came by with, 'We were just winning the most glorious victory in the world, boys, when those damned Dutchmen ran. If you'd only been there instead! But we'll be with you in the morning!'"

About half a mile from the Chancellorsville pike a dark line of blue, flat on the ground, stretched diagonally across the road into the woods to an unknown distance on either side. To the question, "What troops are those?" came the reply, "Regulars!" Unmistakably the Union arms had met with a reverse. Nor were the new-comers long in learning of Jackson's flank attack, which brought disaster to Howard's (Eleventh) corps, on the extreme right of the army, and left the final issue of the

battle uncertain. In a few minutes more the brigade reached the turnpike, where it was directed to the left, and marched nearly to the Chancellor House. Shells were still flying, and an occasional volley of musketry told that deadly work was still going on. Mingled with the sound of the guns could be heard the shrill rebel yell and the heavier refrain of Union cheers.

It was now near midnight, and by order of General Hooker the troops of the First Corps countermarched and, moving some distance to the right, threw themselves into the dense woods, facing the supposed position of the enemy. The exact location of the latter's left wing could only be conjectured, but it was to be expected that before they could complete their line the Union troops would be fired upon. Such was not the case, however, and, after establishing a cordon of pickets about two hundred yards in front, the First Corps slept undisturbed on its arms.

The darkness of the night, intensified by the overhanging trees and underbrush, made it desirable that the pickets should have some mark by which they might distinguish one another, and accordingly those of the 150th (who volunteered for this dangerous duty) were instructed to roll up one sleeve of the blouse, displaying the white of the shirt as far as the elbow. In placing the line, Major Chamberlin, who was designated for this purpose, gathered up a score or two of the stampeded men of the Eleventh Corps, who were sleeping in the woods, utterly lost, and after completing his ticklish task, piloted them back to the pike, where they were turned over to the provost guard. One German, who was evidently a company cook, with a mass of kettles and pans in his keeping, was disposed to make resistance when roused from his leafy couch, imagining, no doubt, that he was being made a prisoner by the enemy; but on being assured in his own tongue that he was in the hands of friends, he shouldered his huge collection of government property and moved off with alacrity.

On the morning of the 3d an admirable line of breastworks was constructed of fallen trees and of others which were speedily felled for the purpose, along the entire front of the corps, and this was quickly duplicated by the reserves at a short distance in the rear; so that in a few hours the position of Reynolds's command was practically impregnable. The same kind of defences was prepared by the Fifth Corps, which had been advanced before morning and joined the First on the left, Stone's brigade touching elbows with Sykes's division. The underbrush was also cleared away for a space of two hundred yards in front of the lines, so as to obtain an early view of the enemy, should he attack, and give greater effect to a musketry fire.

Immediately after daybreak Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper, who had been placed in charge of the pickets of Doubleday's division, advanced the line half a mile or more, the pickets of the divisions to the right and left sharing in the movement. Here the fire of the enemy's sharp-shooters began to be felt, but, alert and crafty, the Bucktail marksmen got the better of their antagonists, and during the day Colonel Huidekoper sent back a large number of prisoners, chiefly from Georgia and North Carolina regiments. The Georgians had been freshly uniformed, and in physical condition were far superior to their "tar-heel" comrades, upon whom they seemed to look with some contempt. The North Carolinians, ragged to a degree, were neither "fat" nor "saucy," and in conversation expressed themselves as being tired of the war.

Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper was probably the first to report the serious wounding of "Stonewall" Jackson, having learned the fact from prisoners taken on the picket line May 3.

An incident which occurred in the works of the 150th, about noon of the 3d, created no little merriment at the expense of one of its subalterns. The ground immediately behind the portion of the defences occupied by his company (of which,

through the sickness of his captain, he was in command) rose to such an extent that, thinking if he maintained his proper distance he would, in case of an attack, be exposed to the bullets of the enemy, and believing that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," this ingenious young officer directed one of his pioneers to dig a hole of sufficient dimensions to shelter his valuable person. When finished, it much resembled a grave, and so contagious was the laughter which it occasioned that Colonel Wister's attention was speedily directed to the unsightly excavation. The rebuke which he administered to the offending lieutenant was of a kind to send cold chills down his back, and when the latter was ordered to close the trench with his own hands, the cup of his abasement was full.

During the day there was heavy firing, both artillery and musketry, some distance to the left and front, in which the First Corps had no part. On account of the dense woods which intervened it was impossible to see what was going on, nor could anything be learned of the progress of the battle, except from the indications given by the swell and lull of the fire of the contending forces. The roar of the cannon and the crash of small-arms were at times so loud and continuous as to raise keen apprehensions of another disaster to some portion of the Union line. It was the Third Corps, assisted by Williams's division of the Second, under the active and able generalship of Sickles, meeting the repeated onsets of Jackson's troops, who the evening before had swept Howard's command from the field. General Hooker had ordered a contraction of his lines, but the enemy attacked in the early morning, and a withdrawal could not be effected without a fight, which lasted for hours, with varying fortune, and proved to be the most sanguinary of the series of encounters in the Chancellorsville campaign. While at its height, the forest took fire, exposing the helpless wounded to a cruel death and enveloping

the entire battle-ground in dense volumes of smoke, through which charge and countercharge continued until Sickles could withdraw to the new line without danger of being overwhelmed in the movement.

Some time during the day a rumor spread among the troops that Hooker had been seriously hurt by a shell, at the Chancellor House, intensifying the feeling of depression which prevailed in some of the commands on account of the misfortune of the previous evening. When, therefore, about four o'clock, he rode along a considerable portion of the line, looking the very ideal of a soldier, and exhibiting no sign of the suffering he was even then enduring, great was the rebound in the feelings of the men, who greeted him everywhere with a tempest of cheers.

The evening and night passed without any extraordinary alarm, and the rest must have been most grateful to the troops who had borne the brunt of the day's fighting.

On the morning of the 4th quiet still prevailed, except that guns were heard in the direction of Banks's Ford, where Sedgwick was known to be in position, but not frequent enough to indicate a serious encounter. At Chancellorsville, such was the disposition of the Union forces and such the strength of their defences that an attack was ardently desired, but the enemy seemed indisposed to deliver battle. During the day there was no movement on either side, except trifling reconnoissances to ascertain each other's whereabouts. In the afternoon, between four and five o'clock, Stone's brigade was sent out in a southerly direction, and by a narrow forest road, in places overgrown by young pines, penetrated nearly to the plank road and within a few rods of the enemy's lines. The voices of the teamsters in conversation and the rattling of the trace-chains of the horses could be distinctly heard.

The 150th led, with skirmishers in front and on either side, and so dense was the growth of straight pine saplings that

the flankers could make their way only with the greatest difficulty. A number of prisoners were gathered up during the movement, but as Stone had been cautioned not to bring on an engagement, not a shot was fired, save one which was the result of an accident, and which, fortunately or unfortunately, produced no alarm. Having detected the presence of the enemy in more or less force, the expedition returned to its breastworks soon after nightfall, and, as these had been occupied by other troops, messengers were sent back in advance to warn the latter not to fire on the brigade when it approached the lines. The precaution was a wise one, for many of the regiments were in a state of nervous tension which brooked no alarms of any kind; and, indeed, just as Stone's men were crossing their breastworks, for some unaccountable reason, several regimental commands farther to the right poured volley after volley into the empty woods in front of them. Fearing that the reconnoitring brigade had been fired on, General Reynolds sent one of his staff-officers, Captain Riddle, to ascertain the cause and result of the firing, and with him Major Chamberlin returned to corps head-quarters, where he found General Reynolds and General Doubleday for the moment occupying the same tent, the latter sitting on a camp-stool, while the former reclined on his blankets. Questioned as to the incidents of the reconnoissance, the major briefly recited the story of the movement, closing with the remark that it would have been the easiest thing in the world for Stone to have brought on an engagement. "I wish to God he had!" was the curt and only comment from the lips of General Reynolds.

On the following day, May 5, the opposing armies continued their attitude of mutual observation and defiance at a comparatively safe remove, recalling forcibly the episode of the belligerent school-boys who burned to knock the chip from each other's shoulder, but "one was afeard and t'other dassent."

In the afternoon Quartermaster Voorhis sent up a train of

pack-mules from United States Ford with a fresh supply of ammunition for the regiment,—which was not needed,—but, fortunately, also with fresh store of provisions, which found most grateful acceptance. About four o'clock a heavy rainfall set in, in the midst of which, a few hours later, the First Corps began to withdraw from its defences and move back towards the ford, preceded by other troops which had made an earlier start. In the intense darkness, under a pelting storm, on a rough and narrow road choked repeatedly by halting columns, it was a most dismal march, stretching through weary hours and disheartening alike to officers and men. At day-break the river was reached, and the pontoons, half submerged in its swollen torrent, seemed in danger of being swept away under the heavy burden of batteries and regiments which moved in unbroken succession to the northern shore. In the open space on the southern bank were massed brigade upon brigade and division upon division, to the number of perhaps thirty thousand troops, impatiently awaiting their turn to cross. It was a magnificent and impressive spectacle, but the mind of the looker-on could not help thinking how a sudden onset of the enemy,—if he chose to pursue,—or the dropping of some scores of shells from well-directed guns, might create a panic in this armed host and fairly choke the stream with drowning men. To avert the possibility of disaster by surprise, the pickets had been left at their posts and their officers instructed to have the last cartridge expended, if necessary, to veil the retreat of the army. It was expected that portions of the line would be gobbled up when the enemy discovered the real situation; and Captain Jones, who commanded the pickets of the 150th, stated afterwards that it was whispered to him, when he went on duty, that he must face the prospect of capture, together with his company, for the general good. Happily, on the morning of the 6th the enemy was not in an enterprising mood, and the Union troops went on their way undisturbed.

By about eight o'clock the last of the regiments had passed and the pontoons were ready to be taken up. Sufficient time having elapsed to insure the safety of the army, Captain Jones quietly withdrew his men, barely escaping capture, and by a hurried march succeeded in reaching the ford before the last bridge was completely dismantled. He rejoined the regiment a few days later at White Oak Church. Others of the picket force were made prisoners and sent south to endure untold privations. Thus ended the Chancellorsville campaign.

It is not the purpose of this modest history to give the details of battles, except in so far as the 150th was concerned in them, nor to criticise the plans of any commanding general or his management of his army, since abler pens in more ambitious works have exhausted the incidents of each campaign, and shown (to the entire satisfaction of the writers) how every engagement of any consequence might have been so conducted as to insure a decisive victory. Of Chancellorsville, however, it may be permitted to say that, while it is generally conceded that defeat resulted from Howard's over-confidence, Sedgwick's tardiness, and the insignificant results of the cavalry expeditions which were expected to achieve so much, greater celerity of movement on the part of the several corps which formed the van of the army, and a more earnest determination to "push things," would doubtless have placed Hooker in a position beyond the "Wilderness," where, as voiced in his congratulatory order of the evening of April 30, "Our enemy must either ingloriously fly or come out from behind his defenses and give us battle on our own ground, where certain destruction awaits him." Nor can too much stress be laid upon the injury received by the commanding general on the morning of May 3, which practically incapacitated him for the further conduct of the battle, and probably prevented him from hurling the First and a part of the Fifth Corps—in numbers upwards of twenty thousand fresh troops—on the depleted left

flank of the enemy, to roll it together like a scroll and avenge the disaster of the previous day. Certainly the First Corps was eager to go forward, and as a mass would have devoutly echoed the sentiment of its stern commander when told how readily Stone, with his little brigade, could have precipitated an engagement on the afternoon of the 4th, "I wish to God he had!"

## CHAPTER XII.

## IN CAMP AT WHITE OAK CHURCH.

EXCESSIVE fatigue, loss of sleep, the pouring rain, and, above all, the knowledge that a great movement, auspiciously begun, on which so many hopes were based, had proved unsuccessful, conspired to depress the spirits of the rank and file and develop for a time a certain degree of irritability. In mounting the steep, wooded hill facing the ford, men of different regiments became more or less intermingled, and their criticisms of one another were not all of the politest; while some of their officers, who strove to preserve an appearance of order in the ranks, failed to command the respect to which their position entitled them. It was not, however, an hour in which to meditate harsh measures, and indeed, after the trying experiences of the past few days, the men had claim to more than usual forbearance. When the column reached the summit, and could move more freely on the muddy but otherwise unobstructed roads, a better feeling began to prevail, and all swung forward with alacrity, in the hope of soon being halted and allowed to go into camp. But no such good fortune was in store for them,—at least for Colonel Stone's brigade. Either that officer had omitted to obtain orders as to the destination of his command, or he must have misinterpreted them, for he continued to lead it through the pelting rain over roads that grew every moment more difficult, and once at least, by mistaking the way, necessitated perhaps a mile or two of useless marching, when every needless step was a punishment.

At last, about noon, a halt of two or three hours was made, and most of the men refreshed themselves with coffee, though

many did not go to the trouble of building fires to prepare it, fearing that an order to move might come at any moment and leave them with only "their labor for their pains."

The march was resumed near the middle of the afternoon, and the experience of the next few hours was worse than that of the morning. In many places brooks had overflowed their banks and spread over wide spaces between the hills, and through these muddy torrents the brigade was compelled to pass, with water reaching to the cartridge-belt, chilling exhausted limbs and causing suffering stomachs to yearn for warming food and drink. It was a cruel stretch, lasting into the night; and when, about eight or nine o'clock, the fires of a cavalry post were seen at White Oak Church, each regiment dissolved without command, to seek shelter wherever it could be found. A few were accommodated in the little church, but the larger number hunted up the deserted camps in the immediate neighborhood, where they found protection from the rain, and in blessed sleep forgot the day's accumulated unpleasantnesses. Colonel Wister and Adjutant Ashhurst were fortunate enough to obtain quarters in a farm-house near by, where they were comfortably entertained; while the lieutenant-colonel and major, from lack of enterprise or utter exhaustion, accepted the first resting-place which offered, without considering the question of *previous occupancy*.

On the following morning a melancholy beating of rain-soaked drums called the scattered men together, their clothing and equipments still sadly suggestive of a long struggle with water and mire; and without obtaining orders where to go, Colonel Stone led the brigade back to its old quarters near Belle Plain. Here orders *sought him*, and on the morning of the 9th, after a comfortable night's rest, he marched his command back to the neighborhood of White Oak Church, and went into camp in a wood, about two miles from the Rappahannock, not far from Pollock's Mills.

Measures were promptly adopted to repair the wear and tear of the Chancellorsville movement, and in a few days the 150th, which knew no idle moments, was again in an approved state of discipline and efficiency. Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper, who, by the courtesy of Colonel Wister, had much to do with the instruction of the regiment in its manifold duties, granted mild indulgences to the member of each company who kept his clothing, arms, and accoutrements in the most satisfactory condition, begetting in this manner an agreeable rivalry which was productive of the best results. In his brief "History of the 150th," published in the *Scout and Mail*, Sergeant Ramsey, of Company F, says, "While encamped at White Oak Church an incident occurred which will serve to illustrate the impartiality of Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper's judgment as an inspecting officer, and his perfect recollection in after-years of any circumstance connected with the regiment. The camp and regiment were regularly inspected every Sunday morning, and everything done to incite the zeal of the various companies and individual men to excel in their appearance. In one of the companies was a young man who was constantly commended by the lieutenant-colonel for having his piece in the best order. This produced criticism, and, finally, the allegation of favoritism, and the boys determined to test the matter by having the gun of the supposed favorite exchanged for that of another member of the company who always had his gun in good order. When the company in which these men were was reached, the inspecting officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H——, handled several muskets before coming to the one in question, which was taken, carefully examined, and returned with the remark, 'Baker, you have your piece as clean this morning as Reynolds's ever was; now see if you cannot have it so every morning.' Nearly twenty years after this occurrence (Colonel H—— not having seen him in the mean time) Reynolds called at the colonel's office and, giving his name, remarked, 'I do not suppose you

remember me.' The immediate answer was, 'Oh, yes; the boy who always had a clean musket.'

If the regiment excelled in the neatness of its clothing,—as it certainly did,—this was largely due to the watchfulness of Adjutant Ashhurst, who was not only painstaking in all the routine duties of his office, but kept a vigilant eye on the appearance and bearing of the men. To his prudent foresight the command was indebted for a perennial supply of white gloves, which added greatly to the attractiveness of its dress parades, already noticeable for the perfection of the men in the manual of arms. On every occasion of this kind the number of spectators from other camps equalled or exceeded the strength of the regiment.

Picket duty was one of the most pleasing features of the service at this point. The "turn" of each regiment lasted two days, and as the weather was for the most part delightful, and a tacit understanding existed between the two lines (separated for some distance only by the width of the Rappahannock) that there should be no firing, the men went as cheerfully to this duty as to a picnic. In a letter to a member of his family, written Sunday, May 17, Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper says, "One-half of my picket line ran along the river, on the opposite bank of which rebels sat talking and chatting at ease. They go in swimming by dozens and paddle half-way across. They are talkative and on good terms with our men. As they parted to-day, each promised to take care of the other if they should be taken prisoners. It was the 19th Georgia. Some of the questions asked were these:

"*Rebel.*—'Where is Joe Hooker now?'

"*Answer.*—'Gone to Jackson's funeral.'

"*Rebel.*—'Has Joe got the splinters out of his face?'

"*Answer.*—'Oh, yes; they grew out.'

"*Rebel.*—'I'll give you these plugs of tobacco for some coffee, and swim across for it.'

*Answer.*—‘Oh, we have plenty of tobacco.’

“Yesterday the 2d Wisconsin exchanged newspapers with the enemy. My head-quarters were in the yard of Assistant Secretary of War (C. S. A.) Major Seddon’s house, about a quarter of a mile from the river. It is on a hill, and the view is perfectly lovely. The valley is three or four miles wide, and on either bank were thousands of cattle and mules, pasturing in the heavy clover. Officers rode along either bank in safety. At Mrs. Seddon’s house was a signal station. The darkies supplied me with milk by stealing it from the buckets. They are good friends to the Union army.”

On the 18th of May the regimental camp was moved from the cool woods to a hill as bare as a billiard-ball, because the medical director pronounced the other location unhealthy. By erecting arbors in front of their tents, covered with twigs cut from the grove, the men succeeded not only in obtaining a grateful shelter from the warm sun, but in giving to the camp a peculiarly picturesque appearance.

Here the fondness of men, whose home ties are sundered, for pets of all kinds, cropped out to a marked extent. At the colonel’s quarters a black-and-tan bitch of good strain and heavy with pups, which had followed the regiment from Chancellorsville, was the object of much attention, and frequent were the friendly disputes as to the partition of the expected litter. In some of the company camps could be found a young crow or two, a cat, a tame squirrel, dogs, and even a wretched buzzard, whose scanty and rumpled feathers were suggestive of the repentant parrot after its famous encounter with the monkey.

Mention must not be omitted of the dog “Jim,” of whom the property right was vested in Sergeant “Jack” Kensil, of Company F, but who was known to every man in the regiment, and endeared himself to all by his pluck and constancy. He shared the fortunes of the command until the close of the war, running narrow chances of death or disablement on many

fields; and though often separated from his immediate master, and at times from the regiment, by the accidents of battle, invariably turned up in the right place to receive the congratulations and caresses of his numerous friends. He was duly mustered out in the spring of 1865, and provided with a written discharge as formal in its wording as the valuable paper furnished by the War Department.

On the 21st of May, Adjutant Ashhurst writes, "We have been ordered to be ready to move to-night. The idea is this. A regiment crossed over from the other side to plunder, some days since, and we sent some cavalry down to meet them. To-day the rebels telegraphed by signals that a bridge was broken, cutting off our cavalry, and by re-enforcements they could capture it. Colonel Morrow's (Iron) brigade, First Division, was sent this morning to repair the bridge and meet the enemy. If needed, we are to go to-night."

On the 22d he adds, "We did not move last night, and are remaining here very quiet. The bower we have in front of our tent makes it pretty cool. It is still cool at nights. Very many of our officers are sick. Widdis and Fisher, of A; Sears, of F; Gutelius, of D; Tryon, of I; Davis, of C; Reisinger, of H; Pine and Carpenter, of E; and Chatburn, of B. Gutelius has been very ill, but is getting better now. Tryon is quite ill. I think Davis and Pine will either resign or go on the invalid detachment. Reisinger has hurt his leg with a bayonet. Chatburn is getting better. The others are light cases."

On the 25th of May, Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper, impressed by the beauty of his surroundings and the harmony which filled the air, wrote to one of his friends, "The bands around us and across the river have been playing sweetly for a few days. It is delightful as the sun goes down to sit in one's tent and enjoy the music, which seems to float from camp to camp. Camp life will have a thousand recollections which will outlive all memory of the hardships."

Captain H. W. Crotzer, of Company D, was mustered out of the service on the 18th of May, on surgeon's certificate of disability. His physical condition was none of the best before quitting Belle Plain, and on the long march to United States Ford, on the 2d of May, he broke down completely. Reaching the ford with great difficulty, he received much-needed medical attention, and as soon as his strength permitted, turned in and did what he could to alleviate the sufferings of the wounded in the field hospitals at that point. As his own trouble was of a chronic nature, he deemed it best to retire from the army.

Captain John B. Fay, of Company C, had been stricken with malaria prior to the breaking of camp, and also took no part in the Chancellorsville campaign. He was sent to one of the hospitals, and, typhoid fever developing itself in his case, he never resumed command of his company, but was honorably discharged, on surgeon's certificate, on the 16th of the following September.

Dr. Philip A. Quinan, who had been assigned as surgeon to the regiment, reached camp and assumed his duties on the 28th of May. He claimed to have had experience as an assistant surgeon in the regular cavalry for several years, and seemed to be well up in his profession; but a natural or studied cynicism, coupled with excessive self-consciousness and a disposition to belittle his superiors in the medical department, failed to commend him to his fellow-officers or secure their friendship. His advent was signalized by an almost immediate reduction of the sick-list from seventy to twenty-nine, whether wisely or unwisely it would be difficult to say.

On May 27 the adjutant writes, "I was down at the picket line to-day. The rebels on their side are as numerous and easy as usual, bathing, fishing, etc. I saw one man walking his beat, carrying his gun. He is the first I have seen doing that. They nearly all lie down, while our men are nearly all obliged to walk

their beats. If we move now we must leave behind us Jones, Reisinger, and Pine. The two former, I believe, are suffering from intermittent fever, the latter from exhaustion and nervous debility. Also Lieutenants Tryon, Gutelius, and Davis. Tryon is convalescent, Gutelius has had a relapse, Davis is used up."

On the 28th he continues, "We did not move yesterday or to-day, and our movements are still most uncertain. The rebels were said this morning to be withdrawing from our front, but this afternoon they are out in large force, holding brigade drills across the river in view of our line. We have the belief that they have a scheme of crossing somewhere, and the excessive movements they are making everywhere are intended to blind us to something,—exactly what, we do not know.

"We rode out to the picket line this afternoon, and went up to Mr. Strother's, where we get our butter, and had a nice talk with his three daughters, rather fine girls. Mr. Strother is a bitter secessionist, but his wife and daughters are very pleasant and courteous, and make very good butter, at fifty cents a pound. . . . They are much disgusted at our men having milked their cows last night. Old Strother says, 'If your men milk the cows there can be no butter for you,' and the truth of his statement cannot be denied."

On the 29th of May, Assistant Surgeon M. A. Henderson sent in his resignation, which was promptly accepted. Having passed his prime, and ill health seriously limiting his usefulness in the field, he could easily be spared by the regiment. It is suspected, however, that Surgeon Quinan assisted him in making up his mind to leave.

In the latter part of May and beginning of June it was evident that General Lee had begun a movement of importance, the exact object of which it was General Hooker's aim, by the unsparing use of his cavalry, to discover and prepare to thwart. The enemy veiled his intentions by equal activity on the part of his mounted forces, and the uncertainty resulting from this state of

things kept the Union army, for a time, in a condition of unrest that was far from enjoyable. Orders to be in readiness to move were received every day or two, only to be countermanded within a few hours, perhaps, after all the labor of packing and breaking camp had been gone through. From their very frequency the regiment soon came to regard these orders with serenity, and in the first days of June abandoned itself, in unclaimed hours, to the pleasant pastime of cricket,—a game very dear to Philadelphians,—for which a complete outfit had been ordered some time before.

On the 5th of June it was reported that the enemy had evacuated the heights, a heavy force of Union cavalry having passed the river the previous day to reconnoitre. The Second Division of the Sixth Corps crossed near Pollock's Mills on the afternoon of the 5th. On the 6th, Stone's brigade was under arms more or less from three A.M. until four P.M., when, a storm coming up, tents were pitched again without orders. The 150th went on picket on the following day, the adjutant remaining in camp to receive orders. In a letter of that date he mentions the fact that Captain Pine and Lieutenant Tryon had been sent to Georgetown Hospital, and Captain Reisinger and Lieutenant Gutelius to the hospital at Windmill Point.

On the 10th he writes, "There is nothing new here. The enemy shows considerable force opposite us. We changed the position of our reserve and picket line on Monday, bringing some one hundred and fifty men forward from the woods into a hollow not far from the river. This the enemy construed into an attempt to cross, for they brought down a battery and a brigade of infantry, which they drew up in line to oppose our crossing. Finding us quiet, they withdrew them about eight A.M. yesterday, but kept their rifle-pits filled and heavy pickets out all day. Our regiment flatters itself at having produced considerable sensation among the rebels without intending it. Our men came in from picket to-day."

On the 8th, while on the picket line, Elvidge recorded in his diary, "Went on picket. Brought everything along with us. The rebs are making a big show across the river, so I guess they mean a move of some kind."

Three days later Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper writes, "We have been under marching orders for eight days, during which the men have had to live on coffee, crackers, and some meat."

The Gettysburg campaign was about to begin.

## CHAPTER XIII.

## TO GETTYSBURG.

ON the 12th of June the First Corps broke camp and, taking a circuitous route by way of Stoneman's Switch to avoid being seen by the enemy, struck the Warrenton road near Elk (or Hartwood) Church, and marched towards Bealeton. Colonel Stone being absent on leave, Colonel Wister had command of the brigade. At the church a deserter from the First Division (Wadsworth's) was led out, shot, and buried within sight of the road. The corps bivouacked that night in broad meadows about twelve miles from the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, having covered a distance of twenty miles.

The march was very trying on account of the intense heat, the dust, and want of water, the column sometimes making four or five miles without encountering even a mud-puddle from which to allay its thirst. On the following morning, before day, the Third Corps took the lead, and the First, falling in behind it, moved rapidly towards Bealeton, passing detachments of the Fifth Corps (which at that time was guarding the fords on the Rappahannock) and reaching its destination late in the afternoon. The 150th acted as rear-guard of the corps, bringing up the stragglers,—a task which gave it plenty to do, but enabled it to set its own pace and come in with less fatigue than on the previous day. The distance was about fourteen miles.

Bealeton Station is about four miles from the Rappahannock, and consisted then of a couple of deserted houses. Around it is a fine farming country, which for a year or two

had been untouched by the plough and was absolutely denuded of fences. The frame houses had been loop-holed and strengthened with thick planks by the railroad guards, rendering them admirable for defence.

On the 14th the First Corps started for Manassas Junction, and made one of the most tortuous and torturing marches on record. The heat of the sun was withering. Not a breath of air stirred the leaves; the dust rose like a white cloud, powdering the hair and clothes of the troops and almost stifling them; and, to add to the general discomfort, not a drop of water was to be had at times for a distance of five miles. This can be easily understood when it is stated that no rain had fallen since the 5th of May. No man was allowed to fall out of ranks, under any pretext, without a pass from his company commander, approved by the regimental surgeon. Those who did were driven in again by the field-officer at the rear of each regiment, or "gobbled up" by the rear-guard and urged forward forcibly. This was a necessary precaution, as the whole country was open to the guerillas, who would have taken large numbers of prisoners if the men had not been kept in ranks so strictly. In this march of twenty-seven miles they began to get very footsore, and it was distressing to see them hobbling along, begrimed with dust and perspiration, their tongues almost lolling out from excessive thirst. Stagnant pools, on whose borders lay decomposing horses or mules, and which living animals would not touch, were gladly resorted to by the men in passing; but as they were compelled to run in order to overtake their commands, after drinking, they paid dearly for even this sorry luxury.

Manassas Junction was at last reached about two o'clock in the morning, and the weary troops were instructed to lie down until seven. Punctually at seven the column started for Centreville, the sun as scorching as ever, but water, fortunately, more plentiful. At Bull Run a brief halt was made for rest,

which many of the officers and men improved by bathing in the stream. There was no longer any stench in the neighborhood, and the grass and grain, by their luxuriant growth, concealed the traces of the sanguinary conflicts of the preceding years.

At eleven A.M. Centreville was reached, and the Bucktail Brigade encamped near two beautiful springs, which, after the trials of the three days march, were more precious than gold. After a few hours' rest the men of the 150th were instructed to prepare for dress parade, and at six o'clock appeared on the field in all the glory of polished shoes, glittering arms, and well-ordered uniforms, to exhibit their skill in the manual to a larger gathering of spectators than they had ever before known. Captain Widdis held command.

Probably no other regiment in the Left Grand Division (First, Third, and Eleventh Corps, commanded by General Reynolds) held dress parade that evening.

On the morning of the 17th the troops were again in motion, heading towards Edwards Ferry, on the Potomac; but the course was changed *en route*, and the column proceeded to Herndon Station, on the Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad. Here Major Chamberlin was detailed to post the pickets of the First Corps and take charge of the line for the night, with instructions to keep a sharp lookout for Mosby and his men, who were reported to be in the vicinity. A single alarm occurred about midnight, caused probably by the movement of some wild animal through the bushes, which flatly declined to halt and give the countersign.

On the 18th the First Corps moved up four miles, to Broad Run, and encamped in the open fields. The sound of artillery was heard during the day in two directions, indicating cavalry encounters in the passes of the mountains.

In a letter of about this date Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper says, "We are near the Potomac . . . waiting for some definite movement of Lee's army. The raids into McConnells-

ville, Gettysburg, and Chambersburg have been extremely pleasing to us, as we think it will aid the draft and arouse the people once more. . . . The men have found a flock of sheep, which are fast disappearing. *We do not see them*, as we are writing or reading."

About the same time officers of his staff reported General Reynolds (whom they were in the habit of terming "the old man") to be very much preoccupied and in anything but an amiable mood. Doubtless the uncertainty of the military situation worried him, or, foreseeing Lee's intentions more clearly than other commanders, he chafed under an inaction which he feared might have ruinous consequences.

The writer, who had the good fortune to enjoy the notice and, to some extent, the friendship of General Reynolds from the time he took command of the First Brigade of the Pennsylvania Reserve, cannot refrain from expressing his admiration of that distinguished officer and testifying to his many good qualities. To those who knew little of him he may at times have appeared stern and unnecessarily exacting; but those who in the course of their duty were frequently brought near him, and knew him more intimately, soon found that beneath a cold and somewhat haughty exterior was hidden a personality of wonderful attraction, and that he was not without those traits which inspire friendship and invite confidence. His whole life had been that of a soldier, and, being unwedded, his ruling passion seemed to be devotion to his country and his calling. From the very outset he appeared to grasp the magnitude of our civil struggle, and the prospect of years of conflict and endless flow of blood and treasure doubtless helped to leave on his countenance an impress of seriousness which was often mistaken for unbending severity. Recognizing to the fullest extent his own responsibility as a commander, he looked for an equal measure of earnestness on the part of both superiors and subordinates; and while he was chary of commendation

for duty well performed, believing that the government had a right to the best efforts of all its servants, he never criticised or condemned without ample cause.

An instance of his natural kindness was observed by the writer near Belle Plain, in April, 1863, when, in returning from a review of Wadsworth's division, and galloping with some scores of officers in a breezy ride across the country, the general had the misfortune to crowd a private soldier off a bank into a sunken road eight feet below. The man was thrown headlong, but not hurt in the slightest, for Virginia mud is very soft; but the general, instantly turning his horse's head, leaped into the road and, expressing his profound regret at the occurrence, inquired most feelingly of the soldier whether he was injured. On being assured that no damage was done, the general drew out his pocket-book, and handing the man a five-dollar bill, begged him to believe that the matter was purely accidental. Then, touching his cap in soldierly fashion, he hastened to rejoin the cavalcade.

Although the serious lines of his face rarely unbent in a smile, the general was not without a keen appreciation of humor. One day, on this very march towards Gettysburg, when the 150th was moving left in front at the head of the column, and the men were so much exhausted that some of them were falling to the rear, Private Rodearmel (better known as "Rody"), of Company B, called out to his captain,—

"Captain Jones, we're left in front, aren't we?"

"Yes, Rody; why?"

"Because if we don't soon get a rest, I'm thinking most of us will be *left behind*."

General Reynolds, who, with his staff, was immediately in advance of Captain Jones's company, heard the witty sally, and almost immediately ordered a halt; whereupon "Rody," figuratively patting himself on the back, remarked, "Well, boys, the general and I have given you a rest, anyhow."

On the 21st the adjutant writes, "We are under orders to be ready to march at any moment. There is heavy firing towards Aldie, where Meade is. Sickles is about six miles from him, and we are about five miles farther back. We seem to be pounding away heavily, and I suppose our corps will be sent for, if needed. We think now that most of the enemy's force is in the Shenandoah Valley. . . . All the regiment is in fine order here,—much better than in that pestilential place, Falmouth and its vicinity. Beckwith is sick and is to go to the Georgetown Hospital."

On the 22d he continues, "We have just received news that the firing we heard yesterday was a very successful attack of our cavalry under Pleasonton, supported by Barnes's division of Meade's corps, on the rebel cavalry under Stuart. We learn that they drove them from Upperville to Snicker's Gap, taking many prisoners, two cannon, and three caissons. . . . We were inspected this afternoon and made a fine appearance. Did you see in the *Tribune*, some two or three weeks since, a letter from Sheppard, the correspondent for our army, in which the 150th is mentioned with special honor for beautiful appearance, in dress parade particularly?"

On the 25th of June, refreshed by a week's idling, the First Corps broke camp and marched to Barnesville, crossing the Potomac on pontoons about noon, and passing through Poolesville on the way. A heavy rain set in towards evening and the troops had a bad night of it,—all the more dismal from their inability to cook supper, and the incessant braying of some hundreds of mules belonging to the wagon trains which were parked close by.

Next morning the march was resumed in clearing weather, and of necessity foregoing the temptation to indulge in ripe cherries, which abounded on every hand, the column passed over Sugar Loaf Mountain and bivouacked near Jeffersonville, having made a distance of fifteen miles. Soon after leaving

Barnesville, the 150th overtook a straggler from a New York regiment, who, forgetful of the strict order which had been issued in regard to keeping in ranks, was plodding leisurely along, diligently munching cherries plucked from a tree by the way-side. "Why are you not with your regiment?" asked Colonel Wister. The youth made an impudent reply, when the colonel's sword flashed in the air, and in a moment would have descended on the head of the offender, if he had not fallen on his knees and begged for mercy. The colonel administered a sharp reproof, and at his bidding the straggler started on the double-quick to overtake his command.

At six A.M. on the 27th the troops passed through Jeffersonville, and, notwithstanding the early hour, witnessed a cheering demonstration of loyalty. The entire population—old and young—was gathered in the main street, waving miniature flags, and the ladies were profuse in their bows and smiles. Regiment after regiment, as they came up, rent the air with hurrahs in acknowledgment of this friendly disposition. Reaching Middletown after an easy march of seven miles, the corps rested in the fields for the remainder of the day, and many a poor farmer in the neighborhood witnessed with dismay the rapid disappearance of his fences.

At this period the regiment was very short of line-officers. Captains Fay, Reisinger, Bell, and Pine, and Lieutenants Fisher and Beckwith were sick, and either absent or unfit for duty, while Captain Widdis and Lieutenant Keyser were seriously indisposed, leaving but twelve present in the line. Lieutenant Keyes resigned on the 17th of June.

On Sunday, June 28, the column moved at four in the morning, and, crossing the Catoctin Range, reached Frederick at eight P.M. Here the news was spread that General Hooker had retired from the command of the army, and that General Meade had succeeded him in the position. The change created no especial enthusiasm in the 150th, which retained its confi-

dence in its old commander, and was averse to "swapping horses in the middle of a stream." Beyond the reasonable pride which every Pennsylvanian felt in having a Pennsylvanian at the head of the Army of the Potomac, it is doubtful whether the announcement afforded any satisfaction to the Bucktail Brigade, which, in its unchanging devotion, was ready to do its best under any commander.

At five o'clock on the following morning the First Corps left Frederick, and marching through Lewistown, Mechanics-town, Franklinville, and Emmittsburg, encamped on high ground beyond the last-named place about seven o'clock in the evening. Twenty-six miles were accomplished that day, and although the road was heavy in places, on account of the almost continuous rains of a week, such was the buoyant feeling in the ranks at the thought of approaching the border of a "free" State, that the troops gave less evidence of fatigue than on any of the previous marches. It was a veritable "triumphal progress." In passing through the towns and villages, whose streets were lined with welcoming people, the colors were unfurled, the bands and drum-corps struck up, and quickly taking the step, with muskets at a shoulder, the regiments treated the delighted citizens to an exhibition scarcely less stately and impressive than a grand review. At Mechanicstown several young ladies appeared in dresses made of the national colors, waving diminutive flags, and were enthusiastically cheered. Coffee, tea, and milk were tendered to the men as they passed, and fresh bread, cakes, and pies easily found the way into their capacious haversacks. All that blessed day the hills and woods resounded with patriotic lays which were taken up by regiment after regiment, until the whole army seemed to have been metamorphosed into a vast singing society.

Soon after the corps came to a halt for the night, some practical joker quietly spread the report that the Mother Superior of the convent in the outskirts of the town had in-

vited all the commissioned officers to a reception, with suitable refreshments, to be held in the main building of the institution that evening. Most of those who heard the story instantly recognized its absurdity; but not a few were foolish enough to go back to the town and prowl around the convent, which of course they found shrouded in darkness.

On the 30th the First Corps advanced three or four miles to Marsh Creek, and was put in position to receive an attack, if any part of Lee's army should be in the neighborhood. The 150th occupied a wood on the left of the Emmitsburg road, the foliage sheltering it from the rain which fell intermittently during the day. The night, contrary to expectation, passed quietly, and the troops enjoyed an undisturbed rest, little dreaming of the draft that would be made on their courage and endurance on the morrow.

## CHAPTER XIV.

## GETTYSBURG—FIRST DAY.

On the morning of July 1 the officers of the regiment cast about rather anxiously for the wherewithal to "piece out" a breakfast, having lost touch for two or three days with the wagons of the commissary department. Captain Sigler and a lieutenant or two formally asked permission to send out to buy a sheep, but as there was a prospect of an early movement, this could not be accorded, and they had to be satisfied with the regulation coffee and hard-tack. The field and staff fared no better.

The First Division (Wadsworth's) was started towards Gettysburg at or before eight o'clock, and the Third (Rowley's,—General Doubleday being in command of the corps) was put on foot about nine, but for some reason—probably the withdrawal of the pickets and the bringing up of the Second Division (Robinson's)—did not move until half or three-quarters of an hour later. It then marched rapidly over the Emmittsburg road, incited to unusual effort by the frequent boom of field-pieces at a distance of some miles in front. The morning was bright, after an early drizzle, but intensely sultry, the air being charged with moisture, and the men quickly felt the weight of their campaigning outfit, and perspired as they had rarely perspired before. On either hand long stretches of golden grain and luxuriant growths of corn looked beautiful in the sunlight, and it was hard to believe that this armed host was approaching the scene of a battle. Soon, however, citizens were met driving cattle and horses before them in search of a safe retreat; and

when, a little later, two children—a boy and a girl—rode past on one horse, crying as if their little hearts would break, it was painfully apparent that the miseries of war had penetrated to this hitherto quiet pastoral region.

A mile or two below Gettysburg, on the Emmitsburg pike, a staff-officer met the head of the column with instructions to hasten the march, and diverted it from the road into the fields, where the division took the double-quick and maintained it until it reached the ground a little to the south and west of the theological seminary. The exertion proved too great for many of the men, and quite a number of the 150th were compelled to fall out of the ranks. Captain Dougal, of Company D, the largest and most corpulent officer in the regiment, found himself unequal to the telling pace, and, having asked permission to drop behind, was instructed to gather up the stragglers and bring them to the front,—an order which he executed most satisfactorily.

When the troops were halted near the seminary, Generals Doubleday and Rowley, who with portions of their staffs sat upon their horses at that point, addressed a few words of encouragement to the several regiments, reminding them that they were upon their own soil, that the eye of the commonwealth was upon them, and that there was every reason to believe they would do their duty to the uttermost in defence of their State. Meanwhile, shells were flying overhead from rebel batteries beyond the ridge to the west, and there was no longer any doubt that there would be trying work that day. The untimely death of General Reynolds had already been whispered to many of the officers, and soon became known in the ranks, occasioning a feeling of profound sorrow; for, whatever views individuals may have had of his temperament and bearing, all recognized in him one of the ablest and most skilful commanders in the Army of the Potomac, and lamented his unfortunate taking-off. Had he lived to guide and encourage his troops, though this first day's

fight against vast odds might not have been entirely successful, it would certainly have been more brilliant in achievement.

On receiving instructions where to post his regiment, Colonel Wister ordered knapsacks to be unslung and piled on the ground, and then gave the command, "Forward!" forgetting that the muskets were not loaded. Instantly a score of voices reminded him of the omission, and amid some merriment the loading was ordered. Then, with colors unfurled and full battalion front, the 150th moved rapidly westward to the brow of the hill overlooking the little valley of Willoughby Run, and occupied a part of the space between the wood on the left, in which the Iron Brigade lay, and the McPherson farm-buildings. The 149th and 143d Pennsylvania took position on the right, extending to the Chambersburg road. It was then about eleven o'clock,—possibly a little later. Of the 150th, the whole number present for duty, including seventeen field-, staff- and line-officers, together with the morning's stragglers, whom Captain Dougal brought up in good order, was—as nearly as could be ascertained—three hundred and ninety-seven.

A number of dead and wounded lay scattered over the field some distance in the rear of the line, giving evidence of sharp work by Wadsworth's division before Rowley's arrival; but beyond a fitful cannonading from rebel guns on the next parallel ridge westward, there was at this hour comparative quiet.

Colonel Stone having ordered one company from each regiment of the brigade to be thrown forward as skirmishers, Company B of the 150th was detailed for this duty, and Captain Jones was instructed by Colonel Wister to "advance until he met the enemy, and engage him." Deploying his men after passing the brow of the hill, the captain speedily dislodged the rebel skirmishers from a fence some distance below, and posted his command advantageously on the line of Willoughby Run.

During the lull which prevailed on the field, there was ample opportunity to observe the numbers and disposition of the

enemy to the west, consisting of Heth's and Pender's divisions of A. P. Hill's corps, some of whose brigades were still arriving and moving in plain view into position south of the Chambersburg road. While the Union line was but a skeleton, with noticeable gaps between the several brigades as well as between the regiments, the enemy was formed in continuous double lines of battle, extending southward as far as the accidents of the ground permitted the eye to reach, with heavy supporting columns in the rear. It was a beautiful spectacle, but their preponderance in force was so obvious that the Union troops might have predicted the certainty of their own defeat, if they had not counted on the timely arrival of re-enforcements.

An incident which occurred about mid-day did much to create good feeling and stimulate the courage of the regiment. While watching and waiting, the attention of some of the men was called to an individual of rather bony frame and more than average stature who approached from the direction of the town, moving with a deliberate step, carrying in his right hand a rifle at a "trail." At any time his figure would have been noticeable, but it was doubly so at that moment, both on account of his age, which evidently neared threescore and ten, and the peculiarity of his dress. The latter consisted of dark trousers and waistcoat, a blue "swallow-tail" coat with brass buttons, and a high black silk hat, from which most of the original sheen had long departed, of a shape to be found only in the fashion-plates of a remote past. Presumably on account of the heat, no neck-wear of any kind relieved the bluish tint of his clean-shaven face and chin. As his course brought him opposite the rear of the left battalion, he first met Major Chamberlin and asked, "Can I fight with your regiment?" The major answered affirmatively, but seeing Colonel Wister approaching, added, "Here is our colonel; speak to him."

"Well, old man, what do *you* want?" demanded Colonel Wister.

"I want a chance to fight with your regiment."

"You do? Can you shoot?"

"Oh, yes;" and a smile crept over the old man's face which seemed to say, "If you knew that you had before you a soldier of the war of 1812, who fought with Scott at Lundy's Lane, you would not ask such a question."

"I see you have a gun, but where is your ammunition?"

For answer, he slapped his disengaged hand on his trousers pockets, which were bulging out with cartridges.

"Certainly you can fight with us," said the colonel, "and I wish there were many more like you."

He then advised him to go into the woods on the left, to the line of the Iron Brigade, where he would be more sheltered from sun and bullets, with an equal chance of doing good execution. With apparent reluctance, as if he preferred the open field, he moved towards the woods, and history has written the name of JOHN BURNS—for it was he—in the roll of the nation's heroes, and his deeds of that day are inseparably linked with the glories of Gettysburg!

Colonel Stone, observing the approach of a rebel force from the north, promptly changed the position of a portion of the brigade to meet an attack from that direction. Leaving the left wing of the 149th to occupy McPherson's lane, facing west, the right wing was faced to the north on the Chambersburg road, the regiment thus forming a right angle, while the 143d continued the line eastwardly on the same road. A little later, a rebel battery which had established itself on Oak Hill opened fire, enfilading the line of the left battalion of the 149th and also the 150th; whereupon the former was thrown forward, uniting with the right wing on the Chambersburg road and facing north, while the 150th was ordered by Colonel Wister, who saw no immediate threat of an attack from the west, to move to the shelter of the McPherson barn. Just as the movement began a shell exploded in the midst of Company C, kill-

ing two men and dangerously, if not fatally, wounding several others. At that very moment Dennis Buckley, a private of Company H, 6th Michigan Cavalry, who had lost his mount in the earlier encounters of the day, presented himself, carbine in hand, and received permission from the major to join the ranks of the regiment. Seeing the misfortune which had befallen Lieutenant Perkins's command, he said, "That is the company for me," and, hurrying forward, overtook it and performed manly service throughout the afternoon.

While the regiment enjoyed the protection afforded by the barn, Captain Jones was hotly skirmishing on the banks of the run, and several of his men soon came back in a disabled condition, among them Sergeant Kolb and Corporal Buchanan. This was too much for Lieutenant Chancellor, of the same company, who had that morning been assigned to the command of Company G, none of whose officers were present for duty. He at once begged to be allowed to join the skirmishers, and pleaded with such warmth that his request was finally granted. At the instant of starting forward one of his men fell dead, pierced by a bullet from beyond the road. Finding the skirmish line sufficiently manned, Lieutenant Chancellor remained for a time in reserve and then returned to his proper place.

In its position on the Chambersburg turnpike the 149th was exposed to a destructive fire from a rebel battery to the west, and with a view to draw the fire away from the men, its colors were detached and planted on the eastern edge of a wheat-field a little beyond the left flank of the regiment and somewhat to the front, where the color-bearers and guards sheltered themselves behind a pile of rails.

Colonel Stone, in his official report, mentions half-past one P.M. as the hour of Early's attack on the Union line north of the pike, and says of the formation of the enemy, "It appeared to be a nearly continuous double line of deployed battalions, with other

battalions *en masse* as reserves. Their line being formed not parallel, but obliquely to ours, their left became first engaged with the troops on the northern prolongation of Seminary Ridge. The battalions engaged soon took a position parallel to those opposed to them, thus causing a break in their lines, and exposing the flank of those engaged to the fire of my two regiments on the Chambersburg road. Though at the longest range of our pieces, we poured a most destructive fire upon their flanks, and with the fire upon their front scattered them over the field. A heavy force was then formed parallel to the Chambersburg pike and pressed forward to the attack of my position. Anticipating this, I had sent Colonel Dwight, with the 149th, forward to occupy a deep railroad cut about one hundred yards from the pike."

Captain Bassler, of Company C, 149th Pennsylvania, says of Dwight's movement, "The order now came for our regiment to advance to the railroad cut, but Colonel Dwight, unfortunately, *took us across the cut* into a very unfavorable position. On the right of the regiment, where the colonel was, the cut was comparatively shallow, but in the rear of the left and centre it was deep, and the banks, which were of aluminous shale, were steep and difficult to climb.

"We were presently attacked by a strong line of the enemy (Daniels's North Carolina brigade of Rodes's division), and after firing a few rounds, the colonel, now fully realizing the danger of our position, gave the command, 'Retreat!' Companies A and F got through the cut easily enough, but the farther to the left the deeper the cut. Some lost their hold when near the top and slid back again; some were shot while climbing up; some ran to the right to get out, and numbers on the left never got out, except as prisoners, for the enemy was upon them before they could clear the cut.

"The consequence of all this was that the regiment got back to the pike in a very scattering order."

Colonel Wister, observing the movement of the 149th and the approach of Daniels's brigade, ordered the 150th to change front forward, to bring it into line with the other two regiments on the pike. This was effected quickly and with precision, and the regiment by an active fire assisted in checking the enemy's advance at the railroad cut. About this hour (between half-past one and two P.M.) Colonel Stone, who had ably directed the operations of his brigade, exposing himself fearlessly at all times, went forward a short distance to reconnoitre, when he received severe wounds in the hip and arm, which entirely disabled him. Colonel Wister succeeded him in the command, and Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper assumed charge of the regiment.

A converging fire from rebel batteries west, north-west, and north now made the position of the 150th most uncomfortable. The projectiles from the enfilading guns to the west, near the Chambersburg road, were at times plainly visible in the air, but most of them struck the ground and ricocheted without exploding. A marvellous escape from serious injury was that of Sergeant-Major Lyon, whose chest was grazed by a shell which tore away his clothing, discoloring the skin and causing intense pain, but without lacerating the flesh in the slightest. Others were severely wounded, whose names are not recalled. The fire of these batteries was much more accurate when some Union pieces went into service at the edge of the wood, near the right of the Iron Brigade, and ventured a response. Immediately the concentrated play of the enemy's guns necessitated a "shift," and after several changes of position in quick succession, the ground was abandoned as untenable.

Daniels's brigade of North Carolinians, though twice driven from the immediate vicinity of the railroad cut, was persistent in returning to that line, and his sharp-shooters, from the convenient shelter of the excavation, kept up a rapid and effective fire. The colors of the 149th, which still remained planted in

the wheat-field in front of the right of the 150th, proved an irresistible attraction to the enterprising enemy. Suddenly a battalion, which had crossed the railroad bed beyond the deep cut without being discovered, appeared among the wheat with the evident intention of capturing the colors or striking the line of the brigade in flank and doubling it up. In an instant Colonel Wister ordered a charge of the 150th, and, drawing his sword, crossed the fence, calling upon the regiment to follow. Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper repeated the command, and swiftly wheeled the three right companies—A, F, and D—to the left until they were within pistol-shot of the rebel line, which, after delivering a destructive fire, gave way and fled in confusion. Two or three volleys were poured into the retreating foe, after which Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper drew back the right companies to their former position. In this brief but successful encounter the companies named lost heavily, especially Company F, which numbered Private Northrup killed; Privates Charles F. Gibson, John Boyer, and George W. Young mortally wounded; and Sergeant John C. Kensil and Privates John K. Himes, F. M. James, John S. Weber, and George W. Bates all more or less seriously wounded. The severest loss sustained by the regiment in this charge was in the death of Lieutenant Charles P. Keyser, of Company B, temporarily serving with Company F. He was a young officer of great promise, who by his manly bearing and general efficiency had attracted the favorable notice of the field and staff, and by his many admirable qualities had endeared himself to the entire command.

Among others who were severely wounded on this occasion was Captain Dougal, of Company D, an officer held in the highest esteem by his superiors, and whose services could not easily be dispensed with. Adjutant Ashhurst relates that after conveying the order to charge to Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper, he himself joined in the movement, between D and F Companies, immediately alongside of Dougal, who was wounded

as he was turning around to draw his pistol, being near enough to the rebel line to use it with effect.

A number of men of the 149th participated in the charge, and in returning to the line their color-guard brought back the colors of that regiment in safety.

The centre and left wing of the 150th, being well down the slope of the hill towards Willoughby Run, did not hear the order to charge, and were at the time busily engaged in breaking up a force which had gathered in the corner of a field beyond the railroad bed, and, partially concealed by a fringe of bushes along the fence line, was obviously meditating a crossing, thus seriously menacing the left flank of the brigade. This body of men was completely scattered. As the enemy continued in force beyond the railroad cut, north of the McPherson buildings, and his skirmishers maintained an annoying fire from that stronghold, Colonel Wister's next care was to order a charge of the 149th, which was led by Colonel Dwight, and resulted in driving Daniels's men well back from that line. After superintending this movement, and while returning to his position near the barn, Colonel Wister was shot through the mouth and face, and, although not actually disabled, found himself incapacitated from giving further commands by the excessive flow of blood, and reluctantly yielded the active direction of the brigade to Colonel Dana, of the 143d.

Between half-past two and three o'clock the rebel batteries began to increase the rapidity of their fire. A glance to the west showed the troops of Heth's and Pender's divisions in motion, descending rapidly towards Willoughby Run, regiment upon regiment *en échelon*, followed by supporting columns extending southward from the Chambersburg road as far as the eye could reach. A change of front on the part of the 150th, to meet this new and apparently overwhelming danger, became at once imperative. With no undue excitement, and in thoroughly good order, the regiment wheeled back to its origi-

nal position, facing the west, leaving, however, a large gap between the left flank and the woods, which it was impossible to fill. The movement occupied but a minute or two, but, under a searching fire from the old assailants north of the road, it was attended with some loss. Among those who were singled out by the enemy's bullets was Major Chamberlin, who fell, dangerously wounded, some distance in front of the new line, and was brought back by volunteers from several companies, at great risk to their own lives and limbs. One of those who assisted in this trying office was disabled by a ball before the line was reached. The major was carried to the McPherson House.

The 149th and 143d continued to face north. For some reason the strong force approaching from the west moderated its movement, as if awaiting developments on other portions of the field, and by the time it came within musket reach the 150th was well established in its new position. By the advance of Heth's troops Captain Jones was forced back from the skirmish line and borne considerably to the left, into the woods, where his company fought for a time as an independent command, but eventually joined the ranks of the Iron Brigade. Suddenly—as if elsewhere something decisive, for which they had been waiting, had occurred—a large portion of Heth's command marched obliquely to the right and was soon hidden from view by the woods.

The withdrawal of this force from its front gave the 150th a moment to breathe and listen to the sounds of conflict farther southward, where Biddle's brigade had been posted in the fields, slightly to the left and many rods to the rear of the prolongation of the line of the Iron Brigade. The attack on Biddle necessitated a readjustment of the line on his right, and Meredith withdrew from his advanced position in the woods to one much less advantageous about two hundred yards farther back. By this change, of which the 150th was not immediately cogni-

zant, the gap between its left flank and the Iron Brigade was greatly widened and its exposure correspondingly increased.

The lull in the fighting in the neighborhood of the McPherson buildings was very brief. The rebel batteries soon reopened and played with an accelerated fire for some minutes, when Brockenbrough's brigade from the west, and Davis's and Daniels's brigades from the north-west and north, pushed in towards the barn and renewed the contest.

The afternoon had worn on to about a quarter of three o'clock. The enemy drew closer and closer, firing and loading as he advanced, but was met by a resistance which time and again staggered him, though it could not shake him off. Greatly superior in numbers, he kept urging the attack, only to find the defence as stubborn as his own advance. If for a moment the line of the 150th bent backward a few steps, it promptly moved forward again at the word of command, forcing the enemy to recoil in turn. At last, by sheer weight, the thinned ranks of the regiment were pushed some rods to the rear, but without panic. To encourage his command, Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper instructed the color-bearer—Sergeant Phifer, of Company I, a man of large stature and boundless courage—to move forward with the colors. This he did without hesitation, in the face of a galling fire, and the line moved automatically with him. A storm of lead constantly sought the flag, and the color-guard especially bore witness to the accuracy of the rebel aim. Corporal Roe Reisinger, of Company H, was disabled by three balls; Corporal Joseph J. Gutelius, of D, received a death-wound; and Corporals Samuel Barnes and Rodney Conner, of A and C respectively, were seriously injured. Sergeant Phifer fell, bleeding from a mortal shot, while proudly flaunting the colors in the face of the foe. This is undoubtedly the incident which drew from General A. P. Hill, who was approaching on the Chambersburg road, the expression of regret at the death of so brave

a man, as detailed by an English officer in an article published soon after in *Blackwood's Magazine*. From the conformation of the ground and the situation of the McPherson buildings, no other Union color-bearer could well have been visible to General Hill at the time.

A moment after the fall of Sergeant Phifer, Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper, who had previously been struck in the leg by a ball which cut to the bone, felt his right arm shattered by another missile, and was forced to visit the barn to obtain aid in bandaging his wounds. A little later Adjutant Ashurst was shot through the shoulder, and simultaneously a spent ball struck him on the shin, but failed to penetrate the heavy riding-boot which he wore at the time. The concussion, however, produced the liveliest pain, and lamed him for some days. Almost at the same moment a third ball broke the scabbard of his sword, showing the hotness of the rebel fire. He bravely kept the field in spite of these injuries, and rendered important service in the subsequent retreat.

Lieutenant Chancellor, of Company B, was shot through the thigh a few moments after the adjutant was wounded, sustaining a painful fracture, from the effects of which he died on the 7th of August. He had hardly passed the limits of boyhood, but in intelligence, courtesy, courage, and all the traits which constitute a useful and efficient officer, he had few superiors.

In the same fierce encounter Captain Sigler, of Company I, was slightly wounded in the leg, but continued at his post; Lieutenant Perkins, commanding Company C, received a ball in the thigh; and Lieutenant Sears, of Company F, was seriously injured in the leg, but clung to the front with a spirit which deserves commendation.

Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper, as soon as his broken arm could be hurriedly cared for, returned to the line, which continued to be maintained in the face of discouraging odds; but

pain and faintness from shock and loss of blood presently compelled him to retire.

Nearly one-half of the original force of the regiment had now been killed or wounded, and scarcely an officer was left unharmed. The enemy was pressing in on all sides, even from the woods on the left, and the little brigade, already beginning to feel the effects of a cross-fire, was in imminent danger of capture. At last, between half-past three and four o'clock, Lieutenant Dalgliesh, of the brigade staff, brought the order to withdraw; but as the regiment was fighting in two directions, with its line broken by the McPherson farm buildings, and the enemy at close quarters, it was impossible to execute the movement as one body, or with anything like regularity. Captain Widdis, as ranking line-officer,—to whom Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper had intrusted the command when forced by his wounds to leave the front,—should have conducted the retreat; but in the face of the difficulties already outlined no military genius, perhaps, could have availed to bring the divided wings together and maintain a solid formation in retiring. Probably because his services were needed in that quarter, Captain Widdis seems to have been in the neighborhood of the barn when the retreat was ordered, and to have fallen back with a portion of those engaged at that point.

Adjutant Ashhurst, to whom the men naturally looked for leadership in the absence of field- and the scarcity of line-officers, quickly grasped the situation, and, ignoring his painful wound, succeeded in holding together remnants of several companies, which fell back through the open ground towards the seminary, fighting as they went. Captain Sigler, also wounded, but less severely, assisted in the movement, and was ably seconded by Sergeant George Bell, of Company H, who had just been commissioned as second lieutenant, but had not yet been mustered. He well justified his promotion by his conduct that day. At the very outset of the retreat, Private Isaac

R. Martindell, of Company A, had his left arm shattered by a Minié-ball, necessitating amputation.

Companies A, F, and D were mostly engaged in the vicinity of the barn, struggling in conjunction with the 149th against the increasing pressure from the north-west and north. Colonel Wister, although prevented by the lacerated and swollen condition of his mouth and face from again taking active command, had remained on the field, doing what he could by his presence and example to animate the men; and, recognizing the difficulty of withdrawing this portion of the line, he undertook the dangerous task in person. In his effort to bring away not only the fighting men, but the numerous stragglers from different regiments who had on one pretext or another sought shelter in the barn, he delayed his own departure a moment too long, and found himself temporarily a prisoner. A considerable number of the 150th and 149th, much intermingled in the final struggle, retired under the guidance of Lieutenant-Colonel Dwight in a direction nearly parallel to the Chambersburg road. Others were headed off near the barn or house by the rapid closing in of the rebel lines on both sides, and captured. Captain Jones and his company, as already stated, had joined forces with the Iron Brigade, whose line ran north and south near the spot where Reynolds fell. Sergeant McGinley, of Company E, with a handful of men, retreating in that direction, threw in his lot with the same command.

The united groups of the 149th and 150th took advantage of every favorable spot to make a defensive stand, and gave and received severe punishment. At one point where a halt was made to support some guns which had not yet been re-tired, a number of 150th men were killed or wounded, among the former First Sergeant Weidensaul, of Company D, whose commission as second lieutenant had arrived only the previous day. Adjutant Ashhurst, seeing him bend over and press his hands to his body, as if in pain, called to him, "Are you

wounded?" "No," he replied, "killed!" and, half turning, fell dead. He was a brave soldier, in whom the military instinct had been strong from his early youth.

Concerning the withdrawal from the McPherson place, Adjutant Ashhurst says, "When Lieutenant Dalgliesh brought us the order to retreat, I do not remember seeing any officer higher in rank than myself on the line. I suppose Captain Sigler must have been there, as I saw him later near the seminary. He was probably at the extreme left and I at the right of the regiment. I gave the order to fall back. Bell, just promoted as lieutenant in Company H, protested to me against the retreat, saying, 'Adjutant, it is all damned cowardice; we have beaten them and will keep on beating them back!' At this time we could see the Iron Brigade on our left falling back by *echelon* of alternate battalions. I remember with me, at this moment, Lieutenant Sears, of F; Bell, of H; and Weiden-saul, of D. When we reached the seminary we found a battery to its right in an orchard or grove. As we came up the officers of the battery ran out to us and begged us to make a stand and save the guns. I hardly thought it possible, but Colonel Dwight, who was with me, joined me in an appeal to the 149th and 150th for one last effort, and they gallantly responded. We kept the enemy at bay until, after a few more volleys, the guns were limbered up and moved off. We did not leave our position until the officers of the battery told Dwight and myself it was safe, and they would not ask us to remain longer. I remember with me at this time Captain Sigler, Lieutenant Sears, and Lieutenant Bell."

The battery referred to by Adjutant Ashhurst was one of several which Colonel Wainwright, chief of artillery of the First Corps, had put in position near the seminary, when it became evident that the advanced line was being sorely pressed and must soon fall back. Here the retiring regiments—most of them in a more or less disorganized state—made a final

stand behind hastily improvised breastworks of rails. This line, which was the last to be seriously defended, was attacked by the converging forces of the enemy about four o'clock. For some time their advance was disputed with success, and the artillery especially, at short range, did good execution. But both flanks of the defence were "in the air," and against the overwhelming odds a long-continued resistance would have been suicidal, exposing the thinned battalions to destruction or capture. Besides, the two divisions of the Eleventh Corps which had battled ineffectually against Ewell's heavier columns north of the town, were already in retreat, rendering Doubleday's situation still more precarious. The latter accordingly ordered a withdrawal to Cemetery Hill. Already the artillery had lingered too long, and in getting away was exposed to the fire of the enemy's sharp-shooters. The remnants of the 149th and 150th came in very opportunely on the northerly side of the field, which still remained comparatively open, to assist a New York battery out of its trouble. Of the infantry, the southern portion of the line, moving by the lower branch of the Hagerstown road, which forks near the seminary, was comparatively undisturbed and reached the town in fair order; but the portions of regiments constituting the northerly end of the line naturally sought escape in the direction of the Chambersburg pike and the railroad embankment, where their chances of success were diminished by the swift approach of swarms of rebel skirmishers, supported by well-ordered lines of infantry. Under such conditions it was impossible to maintain a proper formation or make a serious show of resistance. The larger portion reached the town in safety, but a few officers and a considerable number of men of Stone's and other brigades were cut off before reaching the shelter of the houses, and made prisoners. Captain Gimber, of Company F, unwisely undertook to cross the garden of the seminary, but before he could clear the second fence, was brought to a stand-still by menacing bayonets. Even

those who found themselves in the closely built streets of the town were not beyond danger, as some of these were already occupied by Ewell's troops, who had followed up the retreat of the Eleventh Corps with great celerity, and kept firing at the fugitives wherever seen. Captain Widdis and Lieutenants Carpenter and Chatburn were taken in or near the town. Many hair-breadth escapes were made by leaping fences, traversing gardens, or passing through shops and dwellings, in order to reach streets to which the pursuit had not yet penetrated.

Of this final stage of the retreat Adjutant Ashhurst says, "By the long pause near the seminary so much time had been lost that the enemy was pouring in on both sides of us, and it was impossible longer to keep much order, particularly as we found ourselves mingled with a crowd of fugitives from another direction. Many of the men, to get out of the fire of some batteries playing from the north upon us, went too far over, to gain the shelter of the railway embankment, and were thus captured. When I reached the houses the enemy was so close upon us that I found it my only chance of escape to climb over fences and cross private grounds, so as to get into another street. Here I found the Second Division retreating up the street, and was fortunate enough to get into an ambulance which was the last representative of our troops coming from that direction. From the back of the ambulance we could see the rebel skirmishers coming down the street towards us, firing upon us as they came. One wounded man was killed in the ambulance while I was in it. There was an officer bringing up the retreat, and the ambulance driver kept just behind him, so as to screen him from fire by interposing the white cover of the vehicle. The ambulance drove up within the line on Cemetery Ridge, where I found Colonel Dana in command of the remnants of our force, reported to him, and by his direction went to an improvised field hospital, where my wound was dressed, after which I obtained his permission to go to the rear."

Captain Jones, who by following the more southerly route, where the Hagerstown road forks, had been able to keep his company in column, relates that in hurrying through the town he received a peremptory order to halt from a rebel field-officer riding at the head of a regiment which was rapidly approaching on an intersecting street, when Private Terence O'Connor, of his company, by a well-aimed shot, brought the officer to the ground, O'Connor coolly remarking, "We take no orders from the likes of you!"

In this too long deferred movement from the seminary to Cemetery Hill, which for a part of the line necessarily partook more of the nature of a scramble for safety than a retreat, one of the standards of the 150th was lost. This was naturally a source of deep regret to the regiment, which, however, could not reproach itself with any neglect of its colors or lack of courage in their defence, having maintained its position for hours in the face of superior numbers, losing nearly one-half of its original force in killed or wounded. Moreover, scarcely a commissioned officer was left unhurt, and at the time of the final retreat from the vicinity of the seminary many of the streets of the town were already invaded by the enemy, making the escape of any considerable portion of the command extremely problematical.

For many years the belief prevailed in the regiment that at the time of its capture the flag was in the hands of Corporal Gutelius, of Company D, who had been severely wounded, but persisted in retaining the colors, and was shot dead while resting for a moment on a door-step in the town. The story was told with such circumstantiality by one of his comrades (who claimed to have witnessed the occurrence), and remained so long uncontradicted, that it was generally accepted as true.

In letters written at St. Joseph, Missouri, dated August 11 and 30, 1889, Corporal Rodney Conner, of Company C, who was one of the color-guard, states that when Sergeant Phifer

was killed, Corporal Samuel Gilmore, of Company C, first took the colors, but that he himself, although suffering from a Minié-ball in his side, relieved him of them, and carried them through the rest of the fight. In the letter of August 11 he says, "As we were going through the town, and just when I was opposite the stone-yard (Flaharty's, at the north-east corner of Washington and High Streets), a column of rebels came charging down a cross-street and cut off about a hundred men with me. A rebel captain seized the colors from my hand, and the next minute he went down. Another officer went to him, and he gave him the colors and told him to present them to President Davis, with his compliments."

In the letter of August 30, after repeating substantially the foregoing statement, he adds, "I have always felt so humiliated at having the colors taken from me that I have tried to forget it." He expresses his willingness to make oath to the truth of what he writes, and, although some inaccuracies and confusion of incident in his narrative make corroborative evidence desirable, it is only fair to presume that he would not lay claim to the doubtful distinction of having lost the flag, if his version of the affair were not correct.

This stand of colors was duly transmitted by Governor Vance, of North Carolina, to the President of the Confederacy, accompanied by a letter in which the governor stated that it had been "captured from a Pennsylvania regiment, which Lieutenant — [the name is no longer recalled] had put to flight with a handful of sharp-shooters!" It was found with Jefferson Davis's baggage, when he was made a prisoner in 1865, and was held by the Secretary of War until October 25, 1869, when it was forwarded to the Adjutant-General of Pennsylvania, and is now preserved, with other similar relics of the war, in the capitol at Harrisburg.

By five o'clock the troops of the First Corps were in position on Cemetery Hill, to the left and a little to the rear of Stein-

wehr's division. Of the 150th, eighty-six were present, including Captain Jones and Lieutenant Kilgore, the only remaining commissioned officers. The 149th was reduced in about the same proportion, having fought side by side with the 150th on the same unequal terms.

In the many published accounts of the battle, scanty justice has been accorded to General Doubleday for the part he took in the engagement of the first day. Coming upon the field without knowledge of what had already taken place, upon him, by the death of the lamented Reynolds, suddenly devolved the assignment and direction of the troops; and but for his prompt and able dispositions, and the magnificent stand made by every portion of his line, retarding the enemy's advance until the afternoon was nearly spent, Cemetery Ridge might not have been the scene of the Union defence on the following days, and Gettysburg might not have witnessed the victory which proved to be the turning-point of the war.

Before nightfall of the 1st the Twelfth Corps had arrived and taken position, and the Third was reported near at hand, so that the sorely tried forces who had borne the burden of the day were able to repose on their arms with some sense of security.





CAPTAIN HORATIO BELL.

Company G.

(Killed at Wilderness, May 6, 1864.)



FIRST LIEUTENANT HENRY CHANCELLOR.

Company E.

(Mortally wounded at Gettysburg, July 1, 1863.)



SECOND LIEUTENANT CHAS. P. KEYSER.

Company A.

(Killed at Gettysburg, July 1, 1863.)



SECOND LIEUTENANT ELIAS B. WEIDENSAUL.

Company D.

(Killed at Gettysburg, July 1, 1863.)

## CHAPTER XV.

## GETTYSBURG, TO A FINISH.

ON the morning of the 2d, which opened with a drizzling rain, several missing men came in, and George A. Dixon, of Company A, and three or four others having arrived from Camp Convalescent the evening before, the aggregate for duty was increased to one hundred and nine. After the fighting began the regiment was posted, with the rest of the brigade, in support of some batteries on Cemetery Hill, and some of the men assisted in passing the ammunition, as the artillery was short-handed. About six P.M. the brigade was double-quicked to the left, down the Taneytown road, halting at the right of the Third Corps, where the situation was at the time alarming. Humphreys's division had been forced back from its advanced position at and beyond the Emmitsburg road, and the rebels were making a bold push to gain possession of Cemetery Ridge at this point and on the left of Hancock's (Second) corps. The brigade formed line of battle in rear of Humphreys, and bayonets were fixed for a charge; but the enemy was repulsed by the front line, and the order to charge was withheld. A little later the 149th and 150th were ordered to advance to the Emmitsburg road and develop the enemy's position. Deploying as skirmishers, with the 149th in support, the 150th moved forward, and presently secured two guns which had been taken by the enemy during the afternoon. General Doubleday, in his official report, after mentioning the recovery of four guns of a regular battery by a portion of the 13th Vermont, adds, "Shortly afterwards I sent out the 149th and 150th Regiments Pennsylvania Volunteers, who sent in two additional guns

taken from the enemy, after a short and spirited engagement close to his line of battle."

The regiment continued its advance in the growing darkness until the right impinged on the Emmitsburg road, a little to the left of the Codori House, when it was fired upon, and after exchanging a few rounds, fell back by order. Under fresh instructions, the two regiments remained on the field as pickets, again advancing until the right of the line rested on the Emmitsburg road. At dawn of the 3d the 150th was subjected to a sharp fire of shells from two guns posted in an orchard to the left front, which was continued at intervals until the pickets were relieved. In returning to the lines, between seven and eight o'clock, the regiment moved left in front, and Company A suffered severely from the artillery fire, losing Privates Thomas P. Boyce and Joseph F. Durborrow, killed, and Alfred Lees, mortally wounded. On reaching the position assigned the regiment in line, Sergeant Evans, of Company F, and several others were wounded by an exploding shell.

The cannonade which preceded Pickett's charge, in the afternoon, is remembered by all who were exposed to it as something fearful and altogether unexampled. While it was in progress the 150th was joined on the right by a detachment of Berdan's sharp-shooters, and when the assaulting column struck the Union line, these and the right companies of the regiment found themselves sufficiently unmasked by the troops in front to open an effective fire and assist in the final repulse.

It is not the aim of this history to try to give a full account of this battle, or of any of the prominent actions of the Army of the Potomac, as that has been done exhaustively by men of military training who were associated with that army, and whose own deeds are an important part of the record. The scope of this work is more modest, restricting itself to a simple, straightforward narrative of the part taken by the 150th in the several campaigns in which it shared.

With the decisive repulse of Pickett's ill-fated column, which had endeavored to pierce the left centre of the Union line on the afternoon of the 3d, the battle of Gettysburg was over. Whether it should have ended here is a matter which ever since has been the subject of much controversy. The writer, who, with other wounded Union officers, was within the enemy's lines, at the seminary, on that eventful day, and improved each opportunity to converse with members of Lee's and Ewell's staffs, can testify to the confident—almost exultant—tone of the latter up to the moment of the general advance which marked the beginning of Pickett's hopeless undertaking. Not one of these officers, when courteously interrogated on the subject, hesitated to fix the number of Lee's forces at ninety thousand or upwards, or to declare that at a given hour they would simply "walk over" Meade's army. The time for this boasted performance was unaccountably delayed; and when in the twilight the rebel lines fell back to Seminary Ridge, their movement was characterized by such an appearance of alarm, and such obvious confusion, that the Union wounded in and near the seminary were in no doubt as to the result of the fight, and looked with confidence for a counter-movement on the part of Meade. For half an hour bedlam reigned in the neighborhood. Fences were torn down, out-buildings demolished, board-walks knocked to pieces, and everything seized upon that could contribute to the formation of breastworks behind which to resist an expected advance of the Union army. If a strong column of such troops as were least engaged on Cemetery Hill had been pushed forward vigorously to the attack at that moment, there is reason to believe that resistance would have been short-lived, and the rebel lines would have melted away in hasty effort to reach and cross the Potomac. General Meade, however, best knew the condition and capabilities of his own forces, and his signal success in resisting the determined assaults of a hitherto victorious

enemy, equally strong, if not superior, in men and guns, should perhaps free him from criticism—certainly from censure—if in his best judgment he decided to “let well enough alone.” Still, there are many who, recalling what other great generals accomplished under similar conditions, will not cease to regret that no immediate effort was made to deliver a crushing return blow.

On the night of the 3d the retreat of the rebels began, Ewell's division vacating the town and taking position with the rest of Lee's forces behind Seminary Ridge, while the ambulance and supply trains were hurried off by the Chambersburg turnpike and Hagerstown road towards Waynesborough. On the morning of the 4th the bands of the Union army, which had been silent for some days, broke the stillness of the battle-field, and the sweet strains of the “Star-Spangled Banner,” “Hail Columbia,” and other national airs, penetrating to the enemy's lines, must have been as depressing to them as they were inspiriting to the federal ranks. On that day Adjutant Ashhurst, who had been hospitably received and cared for at the farm-house of a Mr. Bushman, succeeded in visiting the front, where he found Captain Jones in command of the little remnant of the regiment, and, to his surprise, met also Captain Pine, who had arrived only that morning, having started from the hospital at the first news of the battle. The adjutant made strenuous efforts on the 2d and 3d to reach the command, but without avail, pain and excessive weakness from loss of blood defeating his intentions.

On the same day Frank Elvidge, of Company A, made the entry in his pocket diary, “On the road to Richmond, a prisoner. Marched about six miles. Raining very hard. All the wagon trains are making for the rear, and I think are on the skedaddle. . . . Poor Fourth of July!”

During the night of the 4th, Lee's army withdrew from Seminary Ridge, and at dawn of the 5th the last vestige of

the gray-coated host had disappeared, except a few stragglers who voluntarily surrendered. As early as the morning of the 4th scattering members of the 150th, mostly wounded, who had either remained hidden in the town or had imposed upon the enemy by artifices which had caused them to be classed among the dangerously hurt, began to report to the regiment, and were sent to hospital or treated by the regimental surgeon, according to their needs. Captain Sigler, of Company I, by binding a bloody handkerchief around his slightly injured limb and assuming an air of great exhaustion, managed to escape a journey to Richmond, and rejoined his company in serviceable condition. Captains Widdis and Gimber, and Lieutenants Carpenter and Chatburn, who were cut off in the retreat of the first day, formed a part of the column of prisoners which started for the rebel capital on the 4th.

When Captain Jones's company went into action as skirmishers on the morning of July 1, the men had exhausted their drinking water, and many of them were suffering from thirst. Calling Private Rodearmel to him, the captain ordered him to take a number of canteens and fill them at a rivulet a few rods in the rear. "Rody" started on his errand, but failed to return during the day; nor was he seen until the morning of the 4th, when he presented himself before the captain on Cemetery Ridge with a large collection of freshly filled canteens, and with inimitable assurance said, "Captain, here's the water! I knew you wanted *good water*, so I thought I'd go back to Germantown for it; but the provost guard stopped me at Baltimore." True enough, he had started for home, but was arrested on the way and returned to the army under guard.

While a few well-authenticated instances of shirking came to light after the battle, the conduct of the mass of the rank and file of the regiment in this long-continued and most exhausting engagement was beyond reproach. Even though reduced to scarcely more than one-fourth of its usual strength

by its frightful exposure on the first day, and almost entirely deprived of officers, the little battalion responded to each call for its services, on the second and third, with the same courage and alacrity which had distinguished it at the opening of the fight.

In his official report to army head-quarters, referring to the important position held by the Bucktail Brigade, General Doubleday says, "I relied greatly on Stone's brigade to hold the post assigned them, as I soon saw I would be obliged to change front with a portion of my line to face the north-west, and his brigade held the pivot of the movement. My confidence in this noble body of men was not misplaced, as will be shown hereafter. They repulsed the repeated attacks of vastly superior numbers at close quarters, and maintained their position until the final retreat of the whole line. Stone himself was shot down, battling to the last. The gallant Colonel Wister, who succeeded him, was also wounded, and the command devolved upon Colonel Dana, of the 143d Pennsylvania Volunteers. This brigade, in common with almost every regiment in the Third Division, were Pennsylvanians, and were actuated by a heroic desire to avenge the invasion of their native State."

Further on he states, "The rebels now advanced from the north-west to flank the two regiments in the road (149th and 143d), but the 150th Regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper, changed front forward and met the enemy precisely as Dwight had met them, with two volleys of musketry and a gallant bayonet charge, led by Colonel Wister in person. This dispersed them. Another desperate onslaught came from the north, passed the railroad cut and almost reached the road, only, however, to encounter another defeat from the irresistible bayonets of our men. The next attack came from the west, but was again repulsed by the indomitable 150th Regiment."

Colonel Stone, in his official report, pays the highest tribute to the troops of his command, saying, "No language can do

justice to the conduct of my officers and men on the bloody first day,—to the coolness with which they watched and waited, under a fierce storm of shot and shell, the enemy's overwhelming masses; to their ready obedience to orders, and prompt and perfect execution, under fire, of all the tactics of the battle-field; to the fierceness of their repeated attacks and to the desperate tenacity of their resistance. They fought as though each man felt that upon his own arm hung the fate of the day and the nation. Nearly two-thirds of my command fell on the field. Every field-officer, save one, was wounded. Not one of them left the field until completely disabled. Colonel Wister, while commanding the brigade, though badly wounded in the mouth and unable to speak, remained in the front of the battle, as did also Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper, commanding the 150th, with his right arm shattered and a wound in the leg, and Lieutenant-Colonel Dwight, commanding the 149th, with a dangerous gunshot wound through the thigh."

General Rowley, commanding the Third Division, calls to the notice of the commanding general—among others—Adjutant Ashhurst, Colonel Wister, Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper, and Major Chamberlin, of the 150th Pennsylvania Volunteers, "as being distinguished for bravery."

If Colonel Wister, in like manner, had named all of the officers and men of his command who commended themselves by their good conduct, the list must necessarily have embraced the greater part of the regiment!

The following are the names of the killed and mortally wounded of the 150th in the battle of Gettysburg:

KILLED OR MORTALLY WOUNDED.

*Company A.*

Corporal Samuel Keyser, killed July 1.

Private John Swint, killed July 1.

Private Thomas P. Boyce, killed July 3.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Private Joseph F. Durborrow, killed July 3.                    |   |
| Private Alfred Lees, mortally wounded July 3; died July 12.    |   |
| Private Enos Mininger, mortally wounded July 1; died July 20.  |   |
| Private Harvey Morris, mortally wounded July 1; died August 3. |   |
| Private George Pollard, mortally wounded July 1; died July 20. | 8 |

*Company B.*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| First Lieutenant Henry Chancellor, Jr., mortally wounded July 1;<br>died August 7. |   |
| Second Lieutenant Charles P. Keyser, killed July 1.                                |   |
| Private Joseph Keen, killed July 1. . . . .  | 3 |

*Company C.*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Private John G. Coyle, killed July 1.  |   |
| Private George Kimey, killed July 1.   |   |
| Private Alonzo Platt, killed July 1.   |   |
| Private William P. Swaney, killed July 1.  |   |
| Private Hosea Smith, killed July 1.  |   |
| Private Simon Trainer, killed July 1.  |   |
| Private Nathaniel P. Gowen, mortally wounded July 1; died Sep-<br>tember 24. . . . . | 7 |

*Company D.*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Second Lieutenant Elias B. Weidensaul, killed July 1. |   |
| Corporal William E. Henning, killed July 1.           |   |
| Corporal Joseph B. Ruhl, killed July 1.               |   |
| Corporal Joseph J. Gutelius, killed July 1.           |   |
| Private Henry A. Fees, killed July 1.                 |   |
| Private William R. Miller, killed July 1.             |   |
| Private John May, killed July 1.                      |   |
| Private E. A. McFadden, killed July 1. . . . .        | 8 |

*Company E.*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Corporal James P. Lukens, killed July 1.         |   |
| Corporal Jesse Rex, killed July 1.               |   |
| Corporal Edward Rockhill, killed July 1. . . . . | 3 |

*Company F.*

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Private John Boyer, mortally wounded July 1.        |  |
| Private Zacharias T. Fink, mortally wounded July 1. |  |
| Private Charles F. Gibson, mortally wounded July 1. |  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Private Jonathan J. Miller, mortally wounded July 1; died August 18. |   |
| Private Frank E. Northrup, killed July 1.                            |   |
| Private George W. Young, mortally wounded July 1; died July 9.       | 6 |

*Company G.*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Sergeant Lorenzo Hodges, mortally wounded July 1; died July 16.    |   |
| Corporal William J. Holmes, mortally wounded July 1; died July 23. |   |
| Private Asher M. Beckwith, mortally wounded July 1; died July 20.  |   |
| Private Fulton Bee, killed July 1.                                 |   |
| Private John Benson, killed July 1.                                |   |
| Private Nathan Hand, killed July 1.                                |   |
| Private Isaac Pilgrim, mortally wounded July 1; died July 25.      |   |
| Private Wesley Merrick, mortally wounded July 1; died July 20.     | 8 |

*Company H.*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Private Frederick Fulk, killed July 1.                        |   |
| Private Joseph Redman, killed July 1.                         |   |
| Private Amos P. Sweet, mortally wounded July 1; died July 12. | 3 |

*Company I.*

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Sergeant Samuel Phifer, killed July 1.                         |    |
| Sergeant Henry A. Mudge, killed July 1.                        |    |
| Private Charles Clyde, mortally wounded July 1; died August 5. |    |
| Private Hiram Fones, mortally wounded July 1; died August 5.   |    |
| Private George W. Franklin, killed July 1.                     |    |
| Private Jacob J. Mough, mortally wounded July 1; died July 19. |    |
| Private James Morris, mortally wounded July 1; died July 18.   | 7  |
| Total killed or mortally wounded . . . . .                     | 53 |

To this number should doubtless be added Private John W. Waddell, of Company F, who has never been seen or heard of since the battle, and who is thought by all of his comrades to have fallen in the first day's fight.

The number of the killed and mortally wounded in the 150th, at Gettysburg, is fixed at fifty-seven by Colonel Fox, in his book entitled "Regimental Losses in the Civil War." As he had access to all the records of the War Department, his figures may be regarded as authoritative.

At this late day it is, of course, impossible to obtain a complete roll of the wounded, the number of whom, as returned by the Adjutant-General's Office and inscribed upon the regimental monument, was one hundred and thirty-four. The subjoined list has been made up with great care, and is probably correct as far as it goes:

WOUNDED.

*Field and Staff.*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Colonel Langhorne Wister, mouth and face.                          |   |
| Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. Huidekoper, loss of right arm; leg wound. |   |
| Major Thomas Chamberlin, shoulder and chest.                       |   |
| Adjutant R. L. Ashurst, shoulder.                                  |   |
| Sergeant-Major Thomas M. Lyon, chest. . . . .                      | 5 |

*Company A.*

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Second Lieutenant Lyman M. Kilgore. |    |
| Sergeant John Mitchell.             |    |
| Corporal Samuel Barnes.             |    |
| Private H. C. Boyd.                 |    |
| Private Henry Folwell.              |    |
| Private Stephen Harmer.             |    |
| Private Paul Hoffman.               |    |
| Private Jacob Keyser.               |    |
| Private Thomas Maguire.             |    |
| Private Isaac R. Martindell.        |    |
| Private Jacob Myers.                |    |
| Private Conrad Redifer.             |    |
| Private Michael Sheehan.            |    |
| Private Edward Steer.               |    |
| Private Samuel J. White. . . . .    | 15 |

*Company B.*

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Sergeant William Kolb.        |   |
| Corporal William Buchanan.    |   |
| Private Matthew Alberts.      |   |
| Private James Wilson. . . . . | 4 |

*Company C.*

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| First Lieutenant Gilbert B. Perkins. |  |
| Sergeant Duffy B. Torbett.           |  |

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Sergeant Wilson N. Clark.   |    |
| Corporal Rodney Conner.     |    |
| Corporal George L. Gilmore. |    |
| Corporal Cress Hellyer.     |    |
| Corporal Charles H. Snyder. |    |
| Corporal Levi Sturdivant.   |    |
| Private James C. Barton.    |    |
| Private Lucius J. Childs.   |    |
| Private Isaiah Clark.       |    |
| Private Michael Dobbs.      |    |
| Private Frederick Gilmore.  |    |
| Private Cyrus Parker.       |    |
| Private Samuel Spargo.      |    |
| Private Peter Snyder.       |    |
| Private George N. Waid.     |    |
| Private Jonathan Williams.  |    |
| Private Henry Yocom.        | 19 |

*Company D.*

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Captain William P. Dougal.      |   |
| Sergeant Samuel H. Himmelreich. |   |
| Corporal James W. Marshall.     |   |
| Private Samuel F. Hassenplug.   |   |
| Private Charles E. Mader.       |   |
| Private William Stahl.          |   |
| Private Henry Wittenmyer.       | 7 |

*Company E.*

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Sergeant George W. Pastor. |   |
| Private Patrick Donoghue.  |   |
| Private Lorenzo Keech.     | 3 |

*Company F.*

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| First Lieutenant Chalkley W. Sears. |  |
| Sergeant Henry B. Evans.            |  |
| Sergeant John C. Kensil.            |  |
| Corporal George W. Bates.           |  |
| Corporal Jonathan Carr.             |  |
| Corporal Joseph A. Edeline.         |  |
| Corporal Edward K. Hess.            |  |
| Corporal Francis M. James.          |  |

Private Andrew Batzel.  
Private Edward B. Fowler.  
Private William A. Garrett.  
Private George P. Grubb.  
Private John K. Himes.  
Private Edward Kates.  
Private David T. Jenkins.  
Private Garrett C. Kean.  
Private Edward McGinley.  
Private Levi Munshower.  
Private James Stevenson.  
Private Samuel Walker.  
Private John S. Weber. . . . . 21

*Company G.*

Sergeant Cyrus W. Baldwin.  
Sergeant J. Leonard Beers.  
Corporal H. L. Burlingame.  
Corporal Colby C. Tripper.  
Corporal Herman Young.  
Private J. Merritt Baldwin.  
Private Merritt M. Catlin.  
Private Albert L. Lamphear.  
Private John Mead. . . . . 9

*Company H.*

Sergeant James T. Reed.  
Corporal Melville L. Boslough.  
Corporal Roe Reisinger.  
Corporal J. W. Slocum.  
Private Lorenzo Abbott.  
Private Edward Baily.  
Private George Bartholomew.  
Private George Berrier.  
Private John W. Clark.  
Private Jonathan Deross.  
Private Abraham Foreman.  
Private George Galmish.  
Private John Garlow.  
Private John D. Gilbert.  
Private Andrew T. Harvey.

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Private James M. Hill.       |    |
| Private Andrew McDermott.    |    |
| Private Francis Nelson.      |    |
| Private William L. Perry.    |    |
| Private John A. Slocum.      |    |
| Private Jacob Stine. . . . . | 21 |

*Company I.*

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Captain John W. Sigler.           |     |
| First Lieutenant Miles F. Rose.   |     |
| Corporal Sylvanus D. Guion.       |     |
| Corporal Daniel Pauli.            |     |
| Private Orrin B. Edget.           |     |
| Private Smith Hubbell.            |     |
| Private Philip Karch.             |     |
| Private Orson R. Karr.            |     |
| Private H. Banning Odell.         |     |
| Private John Rader.               |     |
| Private James F. Stevens. . . . . | 11  |
| Total . . . . .                   | 115 |

The following is an imperfect list of the prisoners who were taken to Richmond and other places in the South, many of them having sturdily refused to be paroled on the field. The large percentage of deaths among them speaks more eloquently than words of the privations which they underwent in captivity, and of the wretched sanitary conditions which prevailed in the "prison-pens:"

*Company A.*

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Captain Cornelius C. Widdis.                     |    |
| Sergeant Henry Laut.                             |    |
| Corporal John Hausman.                           |    |
| Corporal Lewis Vogel. Died at Andersonville.     |    |
| Private Frank H. Elvidge.                        |    |
| Private Herbert Elvidge.                         |    |
| Private Melville H. Freas.                       |    |
| Private Charles Grant. Died at Richmond.         |    |
| Private George Shingle. Died at Richmond.        |    |
| Private Israel H. Thomas.                        |    |
| Musician Philip W. Hammer. Died at Richmond. . . | 11 |

Company B.

Sergeant E. L. Dickinson.  
Private William Diggle. Died at Andersonville.  
Private William Dunkley.  
Private John Gore. Died at Richmond. . . . . 4

*Company C.*

Sergeant James H. Winans. Died at Andersonville.  
Private George P. Ryan.  
Private Henry T. Smith. Died at Richmond.  
Private William Waid. Died at Richmond. . . . . +

*Company D.*

Private Amos Browand.  
Private Isaac Eisenhauer.  
Private John M. Hunt.  
Private Jacob Nees.  
Private John Suydam. Died at Richmond. . . . . 5

*Company E.*

First Lieutenant J. Q. Carpenter.  
Sergeant George H. Crager.  
Sergeant Charles W. Robinson. Died at Andersonville.  
Private George W. Cattell. Died at Richmond.  
Private James E. Graham. Died at Richmond.  
Private John Pyott, Jr. Died at Richmond. . . . . 6

*Company F.*

Captain Henry W. Gimber.  
Second Lieutenant Joseph Chatburn.  
Private David Ashalter.  
Musician Charles Zebley. . . . .

*Company G.*

*Company H.*

Sergeant George Fry. Died at Andersonville.  
Private Harvey Chisholm. Died at Andersonville.  
Private Allen Scott. Died at Andersonville. . . . . 3

*Company I.*

Corporal Frederick Scisco. Died at Richmond.  
Private Charles H. Coyle. Died at Richmond.  
Private Levi Ross. Died at Richmond.  
Private Gothold Scisco. Died at Richmond. . . . 46  
Total . . . . . 46

## CHAPTER XVI.

## RETURN TO VIRGINIA—FROM PILLAR TO POST.

THE great battle of the war, which proved to be the turning-point in the fortunes of the Confederacy, had been fought, and the Army of the Potomac remained in possession of the field, but with a loss of more than twenty thousand in killed, wounded, and prisoners. Never were the wounded in any important engagement more tenderly cared for than were those of the Union forces after the close of the fight at Gettysburg. The Sanitary and Christian Commissions vied with each other in their attentions to the sufferers, and all that the plundered towns-people could offer was freely given to promote the comfort and ease the pain of the thousands who had here been maimed and lacerated in their gallant stand against the invader. Multitudes of citizens from every loyal State hurried to the scene to look after the welfare of friends who had been disabled, or lend a helping hand in the hospitals, and the spectacle of so much affectionate zeal did much to tone down the actual horrors of the struggle.

As early as the 4th of July a large portion of the Union cavalry, including Buford's division, was in motion to harass the retreat of the enemy, and on the succeeding day the Sixth Corps was pushed forward on the Fairfield road in pursuit, while other corps moved by various routes leading through the mountains towards the upper Potomac. The First Corps remained at Gettysburg until the morning of the 6th, when it started for Emmitsburg, and, reaching that place early in the afternoon, encamped in the outskirts for the night.

Captain Jones was in command of the 150th, as he had been since the evening of the 1st; and, owing to the numerous casualties in the regiment, most of the companies were commanded by sergeants, and in one or two instances by corporals.

Breaking camp at five A.M. on the 7th, the corps marched all day, bivouacking a little after sunset within two miles of Middletown. The march continued on the 8th, with a halt of some hours at Middletown, and the troops rested that night at South Mountain Pass. On the 9th breastworks of stones were hastily constructed, and the corps lay on the side of the mountain all day. Next day it advanced through Boonsborough and formed line of battle a mile beyond the village. On the 11th, about noon, Dana's (previously Stone's) brigade was thrown some distance to the right, where it established itself behind strong breastworks and remained all night.

About noon of the 12th the march was resumed, and in a heavy thunder-storm the column passed through Funkstown and constructed defences a short distance beyond, the rebels being at the time in close proximity. The lines were strengthened on the following day, and there was some skirmishing, but no regular attack. On the 14th the corps, now under the command of General Newton, advanced to Williamsport, on the 15th to the little village of Rohrersville, and on the 16th to the neighborhood of Berlin. On the morning of the 18th it crossed the Potomac on pontoons, and rested that night at Waterford, twelve miles from the place of crossing.

On the same day the column of Union prisoners, including from two- to threescore of the 150th, reached Staunton, Virginia, after many hardships on the long tramp. Here they were searched and relieved of nearly everything of value. From this point they were sent by railroad, in instalments, to Richmond, where they were placed in camp, under a strong guard, on Bell Island.

The march of Newton's corps continued from day to day,

*via* Hamilton, Middleburg, and White Plains, to Warrenton, which point was reached on the 23d. Here it rested until the 25th, when it proceeded to Warrenton Junction, where the 150th was detailed for guard duty on the line of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad.

As the regiment was sadly reduced in strength, counting scarcely more than one hundred for duty, Captain Jones and Lieutenant Kilgore were now detached and sent to Philadelphia on recruiting service. It may be stated that they were reasonably successful in their mission, and a number of recruits joined the ranks during the autumn.

On the 1st of August, Buford's cavalry crossed the Rappahannock to ascertain the whereabouts and distribution of Lee's forces, and a good portion of the army was put in motion. On the 2d the 150th marched to Bealeton, whence, after guarding wagon trains at that point for two days, it advanced to Rappahannock Station on the 4th. Here the sound of cannonading could be distinctly heard in the direction of Brandy Station, giving evidence of a cavalry encounter in that neighborhood. The infantry was held in readiness to move, but no occasion for its services arose.

Comparative quiet now reigned "at the front," and there is little of interest to note for some weeks. Captain Sigler, of Company I, upon whom the command devolved after the departure of Captain Jones, had ceded the place to Captain Reisinger, of Company H, on the return of the latter, who, in turn, handed over the command of the regiment to Captain Bell, of Company G, when that officer reported for service, after an absence of some weeks on account of sickness. Lieutenant George Bell, of Company H, occupied the position of acting adjutant. The number of commissioned officers present was still very small. Details of men were made from time to time to construct rifle-pits beyond the river or cut away the woods to give the artillery a better range.

On the 12th of August, Company A, with a slight addition from F, was sent to Bealeton to act as provost guard at the station.

Large bodies of troops were taken away on the cars on the 14th and following days, five train-loads leaving on the 16th, their destination unknown. Drafted men began to arrive about the same time in considerable numbers, consigned to various Pennsylvania regiments, but none found their way to the 150th.

The return of Colonel Wister, on the 20th, was hailed with pleasure by his old comrades and subordinates, and being the ranking officer of the brigade, he relieved Colonel Dana of the command, which the latter had held since July 1.

Major Chamberlin returned on the 26th and assumed command of the regiment, which was then encamped in a pleasant grove above the line of the railroad, about a mile from Rappahannock Station. The strength of the regiment was still below two hundred, and little or no attention having been paid to the clothing and equipment of the men since the great battle in Pennsylvania, they presented a motley and brigandish appearance. On the following day the major was summoned to division head-quarters to meet General Kenly, then in command, who informed him that he understood the 150th had formerly enjoyed the reputation of being the best uniformed and disciplined regiment in the division, but in the absence of its field-officers it had fallen off sadly in both particulars, and needed immediate and judicious handling. He added that on the following Sunday he would personally inspect the entire division, and hoped to see the 150th in such creditable condition that it might soon be expected to resume its former status. Assuring him that he might rest easy on that score, the major returned to his camp and instantly took measures to realize the general's expectations. Inspecting each company of the regiment separately, the same afternoon, accurate note was taken of everything that was needed, and requisitions were pushed in to the quartermaster's department before sunset with such a plea of

*urgency* that the supplies were forthcoming on the following morning. Two feverish days of drilling and polishing succeeded, white gloves were unearthed somewhere, and on Sunday morning, August 30, no regiment in the division could compare with the 150th in the precision of its movements, the neatness of its uniforms, the polish of its arms and accoutrements, and the striking "swellness" of its whole appearance. The eyes of the nervous little general sparkled with pleasure as he passed between the ranks, and his words were full of compliment; while Major Baird, his assistant adjutant-general, who was on especial terms of friendship with the field and staff of the regiment, seemed ready to execute a hoe-down from sheer satisfaction. From that time forward there was no further complaint of the condition of the 150th.

High festival was held at the head-quarters of the Pennsylvania Reserve on the evening of August 29, on the occasion of the bestowal of a costly sword, belt, and sash on General Meade, its former commander. Many prominent officers were in attendance, as well as many distinguished civilians, including Governor Curtin, the "Father of the Reserve," who presented the sword in an eloquent speech, bubbling over with patriotic sentiment. A banquet followed, with ample provision of beer, wine, and more substantial drink; and with toast and song and story, interspersed with orchestral music, the hours passed merrily until midnight, when the assemblage promptly dissolved. It was a genuine military "Commers," and the spectacle of one of the governor's staff, a veteran high up in the sixties, mounted on a table, like an enthusiastic Corps-Bursch, lining out patriotic verses to the air of "Villikins and his Dinah," and conducting the singing with all the fervor and action of a band-master, was supremely ludicrous.

While these festivities were going on, the stores of one or two sutlers in the vicinity of the camp of the 150th were badly raided by a mixed force of artillery and infantry,—unarmed, of

course,—whom it was found necessary to disperse with a squadron of horse.

On the 3d of September the regiment moved to a point about a mile and a half below the railroad, and pitched camp in the open fields immediately in the rear of the 2d Maine Battery, which it had been detailed to support. Having no other duty, the camp was first put in perfect order, and for nearly two weeks the command was thoroughly drilled in company and battalion movements, enjoying in the intervals the most uninterrupted quiet.

Writing to a friend, on the 8th of September, the major says, "It is the first time since the regiment came into service that we have had no guard or picket duty to perform, and altogether we find it very pleasant. Our men are the most docile, easily governed soldiers I ever saw, and I have not had to speak a sharp word to a single soul since taking command. Small as they are in numbers, and long as they have been without pay, they are in the best possible spirits, and remind me constantly of a country school turned out to play. Lieutenant Thomas, of the battery, tells me he never had so well-conducted a regiment near him, and Dr. Carter, of the 4th Maryland, who is acting surgeon for us in the absence of Dr. Strauss, is so well pleased that he wants to remain with us."

Lieutenant Fisher, of Company A, who had passed through a severe attack of sickness, beginning before the battle of Gettysburg, reported for duty on the 6th, and on the following day took charge of his company at Bealeton. By the 15th trains were running through to Culpeper, which thereafter became the distributing station for supplies.

On September 16, Company A rejoined the regiment, which with the rest of the First Corps crossed the river and marched to Stevensburg, near Culpeper, and encamped. At this time some disaffection existed in the 150th towards its sutler, which on the 18th culminated in the presentation of the following

paper, signed by the commanding officers of all the companies except D:

“CAMP OF THE 150TH PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS,  
“September 17, 1863.

“To Major Chamberlin,

“Com’d’g 150th P. V.

“SIR,—The undersigned commanders of companies of this regiment respectfully represent to you that in their opinion the interests of the officers and men of your command would be promoted by dismissing our present sutler, Frank Spyker, and appointing one who is more competent to do a fair and straightforward business. We do not deem it necessary to state in detail our reasons for taking this action, believing them to be well understood by the regiment.

“JAS. W. H. REISINGER, Capt. Co. H.

“W. S. PINE, Capt. Co. E.

“J. W. SIGLER, Capt. Co. I.

“G. B. PERKINS, First Lieut. Co. C.

“HORATIO BELL, Capt. Co. G.

“C. W. SEARS, First Lieut. Co. F.

“HARVEY FISHER, First Lieut. Co. A.

“S. R. BECKWITH, Second Lieut., com’d’g Co. B.”

On the following day, while the matter was in process of investigation by the regimental commander, a second paper was received by him, which read as follows:

“We, the undersigned, respectfully ask that the memorial presented this day, calling for the dismissal of Mr. Spyker, our sutler, be retained at your head-quarters without further action for the present.

“J. W. SIGLER, Capt. Co. I.

“MILES F. ROSE, First Lieut. Co. I.

“LIEUT. C. W. SEARS, Co. F.

“WM. P. DOUGAL, Capt. Co. D.

“JOHN BREDIN, Second Lieut. Co. C.

“W. S. PINE, Capt. Co. E.

“LIEUT. S. R. BECKWITH, com’d’g Co. B.

“LIEUT. G. B. PERKINS, com’d’g Co. C.

“LIEUT. HARVEY FISHER, com’d’g Co. A.”

This “tempest in a teapot” was thus suddenly allayed, and the sutler having been privately interviewed and admonished

by the commander, no whisper of dissatisfaction was heard for a long time.

Orders were received on the 22d to draw eight days' rations and be in readiness to move, but camp was not struck until two days later, when the corps advanced nearly to the Rapidan.

On the 25th a soldier of the Maryland Brigade, Third Division, was "shot to death with musketry," in accordance with the sentence of a court-martial, which had found him guilty of deserting to the enemy. To add to the enormity of his crime, he had practised "bounty-jumping" before coming to the field. The entire division was paraded to view his execution, which was conducted with great solemnity. The writer, who was present, recalls a vision of long lines of troops forming three sides of a vast square, around which a melancholy cortége, whose principal figure was the convict, dressed in dark trousers and white shirt, with his arms securely pinioned, slowly wound its way to the notes of a funeral march. Before the eyes of the prisoner swayed a rude pine coffin in the hands of stalwart bearers, while on his heels came a firing-squad of twelve men, whose rifles held his passport to eternity. These were followed by the provost guard, marshalling a group of hardened offenders, upon whom it was supposed an object-lesson of so impressive a character could hardly fail of good effect. In the middle of the open side of the square a grave had been dug, and here the procession halted, a chaplain exhorting and encouraging the doomed man while the coffin was placed in position. Then the chaplain's voice was heard in prayer, the prisoner's eyes were bandaged, the commands, "Ready—Aim—Fire!" rang out in quick succession, and simultaneously with the sharp report of the guns the unhappy deserter fell dead without a tremor.

Marching past the corpse in columns of companies, the troops, to lively strains from the bands, returned to their quarters to meditate on this unusual occurrence.

On account of the inflamed condition of his recent wound, which completely disabled his right shoulder and arm, Major Chamberlin was ordered—on the recommendation of competent medical authority—to report to Georgetown Hospital for treatment, and, being provided with the necessary pass and transportation, left on the morning of the 26th. The Eleventh and Twelfth Corps started for Tennessee on or about the same day.

During the latter part of September and the early days of October both armies were very much on the alert, and slight changes of position were made by every portion of Meade's command almost daily. On the 27th of September the 150th was located near Culpeper. On the 28th and 29th a portion of it was picketing at Raccoon Ford, and George Dixon, of Company A, entered in his diary, "Rebels on the other side in middling good strength and well fortified." On being relieved from picket, the companies forming the detail found the regiment in a new location. For a week or ten days no incident occurred worth chronicling. On October 9, Lieutenant Fisher was ordered to duty with the ambulance train.

On the following day Lee's army was in motion, evidently with a view to flank General Meade, whose force was known to be seriously reduced, and bring him to an engagement in a disadvantageous position. The latter was, however, well informed of the enemy's intentions, and instantly began a retrograde movement. The 150th, guarding the division train, crossed the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford on the afternoon of the 11th, and encamped. Starting again at midnight of the 12th, the retreat was continued, with occasional halts for observation or rest, until the 14th, when the entire Union army was securely posted in front of the fortifications at Centreville. The Second Corps, which constituted the rear-guard, was attacked by General Stuart not far from Bristoe Station, but repulsed the enemy handsomely, capturing two colors, a battery of five guns, and several hundred prisoners.

General Meade has been much criticised for falling back from the line of Culpeper, where—it is maintained—he might have chosen his own position for fighting a battle, and, with forces superior in numbers to those of the enemy, would have had more than an even chance of success. Into the merits of this controversy it would be unprofitable to enter. It may be remarked, however, that the selection of a battle-ground by no means carries with it the assurance that the shock of arms will take place there, the enemy usually having an opinion of his own about the matter. As no harm befell the Union army, and its *morale* was unshaken by this hasty retreat, its commander has claim to generous indulgence for doing what seemed best to him at the time.

## CHAPTER XVII.

FROM CENTREVILLE BACK TO THE "OLD STAMPING GROUND"—  
WARRENTON JUNCTION—MINE RUN—PAOLI MILLS.

THWARTED in his effort to take Meade at a disadvantage and deliver an effective blow on his flank somewhere between the Rappahannock and Manassas Junction,—a region whose multitude of roads had more than once before furnished opportunities of successful attack by means of rapid circuitous marches,—Lee soon retraced his steps and led his army back to the neighborhood of Culpeper. The Union forces were promptly in motion in the same direction.

On the 19th of October the First Corps left Centreville and advanced to Haymarket, over roads which had been rendered very heavy by recent rains. Next day the column passed through Thoroughfare Gap and encamped about a mile from Bull Run Mountain. Before the 150th and the other regiments of the brigade had fairly relieved themselves of their knapsacks, a considerable body of cavalry, which had pushed forward some miles to reconnoitre, came back in headlong gallop, closely pursued by a superior force of rebel horse, who in the gathering darkness rode into the very midst of the infantry before perceiving their danger, and only by a helter-skelter retreat escaped capture.

On the afternoon of the 22d, Major Chamberlin returned and resumed the command of the regiment, which had moved its camp close to the mountain. Two days later the division retired through the gap to Gainesville Station, and thence to Bristoe, the Bucktail Brigade acting as rear-guard, and covering the

wagon trains, which moved with difficulty on account of the miry condition of the roads. Soon after leaving Gainesville heavy firing of small-arms was heard some distance in the rear, and as it was supposed that Stuart's cavalry was playing some prank with Kilpatrick, the brigade quickly took position to receive the enemy. Mounted couriers soon reported that Kilpatrick's command was emptying its carbines preparatory to cleaning them, and the march was resumed and completed without further alarm. At Broad Run there was no bridge, and wagons and men forded the stream in water over two feet deep. Reaching Bristoe at ten P.M. thoroughly basted with mud, the troops passed an uncomfortable night, the temperature having fallen almost to the freezing-point.

Here the 150th remained a week or more, improving each fair day by a full measure of company and battalion drill. Captain Jones and Lieutenant Bell, who had been in Philadelphia on recruiting service, rejoined their companies about the 23d, leaving Lieutenant Kilgore to make further efforts in behalf of the regiment. On the 27th the 143d Pennsylvania was sent to Manassas Junction to guard the railroad. Lieutenant Fisher returned from the ambulance train to duty with his company on the 30th.

In the early part of November a general movement of the army began. The First and Second Divisions of the First Corps advanced to Catlett Station, November 5, and on the 6th continued the march towards the Rappahannock. On the latter day the Second Brigade, Third Division, moved from Bristoe to Warrenton Junction. The Mine Run diversion had begun.

A pleasant incident, on the 6th of November, was the unexpected appearance at regimental head-quarters of Private Dennis Buckley, of Company H, 6th Michigan Cavalry, who had borne a gallant part with the 150th at Gettysburg. He was warmly welcomed by all who had witnessed his admirable

conduct in that engagement. "Sure, I had lots of fun after that," he said; and he told, among other things, how his regiment had swept over some rifle-pits near Williamsport, where, with his own hand, he had collared a rebel colonel and brought him back a prisoner. "He was mad as a blind bull, the uppish grayback; but I swung my sabre in a promiscuous manner, and he came along without further coaxing."

Dennis was a born soldier, who saw only the agreeable side of campaigning, and never murmured at hard work as long as he could shake a ration out of his haversack.

On the 7th the Second, Third, and a portion of the First Corps (First and Second Divisions) took the direction of Kelly's Ford, while the Fifth and Sixth moved towards Rappahannock Station. At Warrenton Junction the sound of cannonading could be distinctly heard from the latter point during the afternoon, but nothing was known of what occurred until the following morning, when news was received of the storming of the rebel redoubts near the railroad bridge, at nightfall, and the capture of a large part of Hoke's and Hays's brigades, with several stands of colors and a battery of guns. The prisoners were marched back to Warrenton Junction on the 8th, and sent by train to Washington. The beginning of Meade's movement was as brilliant as its end was disappointing.

As the Third Division of the First Corps had no part in the Mine Run affair, except to insure the safety of the army supplies in transit, it is unnecessary to follow the operations of the troops in that brief and unsuccessful campaign.

For the protection of the railroad, the several brigades of the division were at first distributed as follows: the Third (Marylanders) at Bristoe Station; the First at Catlett; the Second (Bucktails) at Warrenton Junction, at which last-named point General Kenly established his head-quarters. This assignment was soon modified, the 143d and 149th Pennsylvania being sent to Bristoe and Manassas Junction and the Maryland

Brigade transferred to Warrenton Junction. The latter station was regarded of such importance, on account of the heavy supply trains which frequently rested upon the Y, that, in addition to the 150th and the Maryland Brigade (which in numbers equalled the other two combined), General Kenly posted two batteries of artillery near his head-quarters, and kept a squadron or two of cavalry within hail. As Mosby's independent command of mounted bushwhackers was known to be in the rear of the Union army, a sharp lookout was kept for him all along the line, involving the maintenance of an extended circle of pickets around each station, with heavy patrols in almost constant motion up and down the railroad track. While the Marylanders remained, the duty at Warrenton Junction was not excessive; but about the 23d of November, General Kenly received orders to change his head-quarters to Rappahannock Station, and on the following morning departed, taking with him the entire Maryland Brigade, the two batteries of artillery, and the cavalry. This left the 150th, with an added detail of about one hundred men (chiefly conscripts, newly arrived) from the 143d and 149th, to guard a post which had previously required the services of at least two thousand troops of all arms. Major Chamberlin, who was left in command, at once found it necessary to contract the picket line and reduce the strength of the patrols; but with the best dispositions that could possibly be made, at least one-half of his force of three hundred men was on active duty each day. To better insure the safety of the halted trains, he withdrew from the edge of the pleasant grove, some distance back from the railroad, in which the camp had originally been pitched by General Kenly's orders, and located the regiment on a knoll immediately overlooking the junction. Snow having fallen on November 9 and 10, giving promise of an early winter, snug quarters were erected as rapidly as the exacting demands of the service permitted, and a line of rifle-pits was prepared encircling the entire camp.

Here the men felt more secure than before, but the details for picket and patrol purposes were necessarily as heavy as ever, and almost nightly alarms occurring at one point or another, from the attempts of guerillas to penetrate the lines, the nervous tension finally became such that not a member of the command but would gladly have exchanged places with the troops confronting the enemy at Mine Run. Near Catlett and other stations along the railroad the bushwhacking element was active, and several men who had gone a short distance from their camps to cut wood or wash their clothes were shot down in cold blood and stripped to the skin. This state of affairs at last became intolerable, and Colonel Biddle, commanding the First Brigade, sent out details of cavalry and infantry with instructions to scour the country for several miles on each side of the railroad, and arrest and bring to his headquarters, at Catlett, every male citizen who could be found. Quite a number were "rounded up" in a few hours,—a long-haired, brigandish-looking set, in "butternut" suits,—every one of whom probably belonged to Mosby's "Irregulars;" but being well provided with properly signed passes, as well as certificates to the effect that they had taken the oath of allegiance to the United States government, nothing was to be done with them but to let them go. A few, whose papers were defective or who lacked written evidence of their loyalty, were sent to Old Capitol Prison at Washington.

Among others who were arrested was Dr. Catlett,—a gentleman well advanced in years,—whose comparatively young and handsome wife came to Colonel Biddle to plead for her husband's release. Arrayed in the remains of ante-bellum finery, with gown and hat of a departed fashion, her appearance at a social gathering anywhere north of the Potomac would doubtless have provoked a smile; but to the war-worn soldier, confined by his calling to this ravaged and hoof-beaten strip of the Old Dominion, she was a most picturesque and

pleasing figure. The colonel was a paragon of severity in manner and feature, cool and passionless as an icicle; but the tears and entreaties of this admirable woman did their perfect work, and her aged husband was permitted to return to his home.

Such was the feeling in the ranks towards the long-haired gentry near the railroad, who by day were "inoffensive farmers," but were with reason suspected to be guerillas by night, that when, in the course of the same afternoon, two of the lank and hated tribe, who had been released at Catlett, passed near the camp of the 150th, appeals were made to the commanding officer by several of the men for permission to go outside and waylay them. Of course he could not countenance such a procedure, though persuaded in his own mind that a little shooting and hanging, and a judicious application of the torch to the farm-houses and barns on either side of the railroad, would save the Union army a world of annoyance.

One bright afternoon, just before Thanksgiving Day, a rickety wagon, drawn by two melancholy looking horses whose framework was sharply outlined against their hides, and whose harness was a complicated blending of leather and hemp, drew up in close proximity to the camp. In it sat an old couple who seemed to have fared as meagrely as their "critters;" but they were bright and chirrupy, and had brought an assorted load of "country produce" from Brentsville, to exchange at fair prices for greenbacks. Such an arrival was a godsend, and in a moment the wagon was surrounded by an eager crowd of purchasers, clamorous for bargains. Chickens, eggs, potatoes, turnips, and other supplies were handed out as fast as change could be made, and were carried off to quarters in triumph. A dainty morsel, in the shape of a pair of fine young ducks, was coveted by many of the men; but the three dollars at which they were held seemed to spoil their market, and though often caressingly handled, they invariably found their way back into the wagon. The roguish element is never wanting in a regi-

ment. A fair-haired, beardless youth, of Company E, found in the ducks an irresistible temptation. Watching his opportunity, he slipped them from under the very noses of the old couple, without detection, and, hiding them under his blouse, walked coolly to his tent. The theft was soon discovered, and the air filled with lamentations by the old woman, who vowed she would stop all transactions then and there. They were Union people, she said, who since the beginning of the war had suffered much persecution from rebel neighbors, and had had a hard struggle for existence. And to have her beautiful ducks stolen by Union soldiers,—it was too much! And she refused to be comforted, even by the thought of the goodly roll of bills which she had already pocketed.

The regimental commander, who from a distance had looked on and enjoyed the scene, was cognizant of the rape of the ducks, and felt that it was time to intervene. His desire was to encourage the bringing of wholesome vegetables and other supplies to the camp. He accordingly ordered the ducks to be restored to their owners, which was done, and the old couple drove away in their creaking vehicle in great contentment.

The health of the regiment at this time was excellent, and Dr. Strauss, the only medical officer present, was easily able to do justice to all his patients. Dr. Quinan, for reasons best known to himself, failed to rejoin the command after the battle of Gettysburg, and on the 23d of November was dismissed the service, thus making way for the promotion of Dr. Strauss.

Shortly before this (November 15) Henry M. Kieffer,\* a fair-haired drummer-boy of Company D, in the absence of a hospital steward, was promoted to that position. Being a bright, intelligent youth, of good education, and a general favorite in

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\* Rev. Henry M. Kieffer, D.D., is best known by his "Recollections of a Drummer-Boy," which first appeared in *St. Nicholas*, and since, in book form, have given pleasure to many thousands of readers.

the regiment, his appointment gave great satisfaction, though in its reduced condition the drum-corps keenly felt his withdrawal.

Expressions of regret were often heard at the fact that Adjutant Ashhurst's services were lost to the command, that accomplished officer having retired from the army on the 10th of September, on surgeon's certificate of disability. Highly educated, polished in his manners, of a genial disposition, conscientious and untiring in the discharge of his countless duties, patriotic, brave, and always gentlemanly, he was sorely missed in the detail work of the regiment, and his absence left a void in the head-quarters mess which it was impossible to fill.

On the morning of November 30, Lieutenant W. L. Wilson, acting assistant adjutant-general, First Brigade, brought an order from Colonel Biddle (to whose command the 150th was temporarily assigned) to send a sergeant and twenty-one men for permanent duty at Licking Run Bridge, about two miles west of Warrenton Junction. Major Chamberlin, wondering if the colonel had gone entirely daft, immediately mounted his horse and rode to Catlett, hoping to have the order countermanded. Colonel Biddle assured him that it had come down from division head-quarters and was imperative.

"But, colonel, you know as well as I do that Mosby's men are in our neighborhood, and that placing so small a force at that distant post is simply inviting its capture. It would not be surprising if the men were all gobbled up the very first night."

"I know it," said the colonel; "but there is no alternative, and you are absolved in advance from all responsibility for the consequences."

The detail was sent out about noon, and fixed its camp at the foot of the high embankment, on the farther side of the stream, a few yards from the bridge. That night, about eleven o'clock, firing was heard in the direction of Licking Run, and twenty minutes later one of the men of the detail came in breathless, stating that the post had been attacked by Mosby

and several of the guards captured. A mounted orderly was sent in hot haste to Colonel Biddle to report the disaster and request that a squadron or two of cavalry be despatched to the scene. Four companies of the 150th had been instructed to sleep with their accoutrements on, and these were promptly called out and marched with the utmost rapidity towards the bridge. The cavalry passed them on the way, but failed to encounter Mosby, who had had ample time to reach a place of safety. On arriving at the bridge, the infantry found the guards at their posts, and quickly learned the details of the attack, which was less disastrous in its results than it might have been. The force of the enemy was variously estimated at from fifty to a hundred, and had come down quietly on the little camp, in the darkness, evidently with a full knowledge of its exact location and the number of men with whom they had to deal. The sentinels on duty gave the alarm as soon as the enemy's approach was discovered, but it was too late, and seven men were picked up before they could get out of their tents. The rest escaped across the run and opened a vigorous fire, which doubtless had much to do with the hasty disappearance of the attacking party, who made no effort to fire the bridge. Strengthening the guard, and leaving a reliable commissioned officer in charge, the major led the four companies back to camp. A few days later a Richmond paper, which in some way had come through the lines, reported the arrival of "seven prisoners who had been captured near Warrenton Junction by Colonel Mosby's command." Of those taken, a portion belonged to the detachment of the 143d and 149th temporarily serving with the 150th; but Privates Samuel G. Stephens, of Company H, and Samuel A. Wheeler, of Company I,—possibly one or two other 150th men,—were among the unfortunates. The two named died at Andersonville, Georgia, in 1864.

The Fifth Corps came in from the Rappahannock, December 4, looking rather rusty after its operations beyond the Rap-

idan, and relieved the First Corps as railroad guards. On the afternoon of the 5th the regiment marched with Colonel Biddle's brigade to Bealeton, and on the following morning crossed the Rappahannock and proceeded to Paoli Mills, encamping in a small open space sheltered on three sides by woods. The next few days were employed by the men in putting up comfortable quarters, as the nights were beginning to be cold. At the mills, not far from the camp, were a number of old wooden buildings, entirely unoccupied, and by permission of Colonel Wister, who had brought up the rest of the Second Brigade, the men of his command helped themselves to the boards, using them as flooring for their tents. The owner of the property entered complaint at General Newton's head-quarters, and by the general's order Colonel Wister was put in arrest. This engendered a storm of indignation throughout the corps, which grew in intensity from day to day, until its echoes reached the ears of the corps commander. Colonel Wister was very popular among all the officers, by whom his action was thoroughly approved, and, with his Quaker-like views of what was permissible in the enemy's country in time of war, there was no disposition on his part to make any apology for his conduct. The situation was probably made clear to General Newton by his chief of staff, Colonel Kingsbury, for after a few days' delay the colonel was permitted to resume his sword. A symposium of rejoicing was held at brigade head-quarters the same night, and tradition has it that certain commissary stores were much reduced before the assembled officers had given full expression to their satisfaction at the colonel's release. Occasional war-whoops pierced the silence of the surrounding camps, whose occupants might have imagined an irruption of savage marauders, intent on painting the country red, if they had not understood the nature of the demonstration and its cause, which latter had their unqualified approval.

The return of Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper on Saturday,

December 12, was a pleasurable event to his immediate command and to his many friends in the army. His empty sleeve, pinned across his breast, recalled most vividly the unequal struggle of July 1, in which he had acquitted himself with the skill of an old campaigner, ably seconding the plans of Colonel Wister, and by his personal undertakings adding lustre to the record of the regiment. He had hardly reached the camp before he was in his "working harness," and when Sunday dawned, an added polish to arms and accoutrements bore witness in advance to the thoroughness of his anticipated inspection, and to the desire of the men to maintain their old-time reputation.

Two days after his arrival, in writing to a member of his family, Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper says, "We lie east of Brandy Station, about six miles over a fearful road, which Lieutenant Huidekoper is now corduroying. The men are making themselves comfortable, and the nice little regiment gives us no more trouble than a brood of chickens. . . . The army has helped itself generally to horses. Some of our captains have horses. Colts, geese, and chickens have domesticated themselves in the camps. Colonel Wister has one goose, chickens, and seventeen sheep."

A few days later (December 19) he writes, "The major has gone off on a ten days' leave. Wise man, not to stay where he is not needed! One field-officer is all that our small brood needs to keep it in order, and then four eyes would see more rebel property disappear than two eyes, which would be harsh towards men fighting for their country. Our men, one night on the march, had to give up nine horses. When they moved in the morning they had fifteen more. Self-preservation is a commendable trait in soldiers."

Speaking of horses, the entire region from Manassas to the Rapidan abounded in these animals, many of which had been disabled in battle, while others had broken down in the trans-

portation service and had been turned loose to die at their leisure. Rest and abundant pasture in many instances restored the suffering beasts to a fair condition of health and strength, and such were speedily utilized by the infantry officers in conveying their baggage from one camping ground to another.

On one occasion, "Rody," of Company B, came into camp leading by an improvised rope halter a wretched mule, which had been discharged for disability and with difficulty was going on three legs. On its back he had packed a mass of camp-kettles, knapsacks, and miscellaneous articles, which completely masked the animal's body, and rose like a mountain in the centre. Addressing his company commander, he said,—

"Captain, I've brought you a horse to carry your baggage."

"But what are you doing with that house-furnishing stock on his back?"

"Well, you see, captain, the d—d beast kicks like h—l, and I had to load him down to keep him from kicking."

At that moment the offended mule began to give a practical exhibition of his attainments as a kicker, and never ceased until he had relieved himself of the entire burden of what "Rody" was pleased to call his "equipperments."

It is needless to add that the captain declined the proffered pack-horse.

On the 14th of December, Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper writes, "Colonel Wister made a capture of some hundred sheep a few days ago, and has still a few left, which Rittenhouse prepares for us when we want mutton. . . . Leaves of absence and furloughs are being granted to the number of eight to a regiment at one time, and I am thronged by worthy applicants. As a rule, I give preference to the married men, and the boys laughingly ask permission to go home *to get married*."

On the 21st, in another letter, he says, "Thanks for the stockings for the men, which were distributed immediately to the most needy, as requested. Colonel Wister advised, when

he heard I had stockings for the men, to give them away at guard-mounting. The man who saluted me worst yesterday, and who was evidently the most needy, had a pair promised him as soon as he should learn to salute properly, which he soon did. I was almost tempted to keep one of the fine pairs for myself, but it went to a Germantown boy. . . . Our cook, Nelson, who is nearly sixty years of age, will not allow the 'boys' to do anything for me. He receives at my hands a ration of whiskey a day, saying, 'Massa, I need it; I'se getting old.'"

Winter had now fairly set in, but the regiment was provided with comfortable quarters and looked forward to weeks, if not months, of profound inactivity. With much labor they had constructed huts of young pine timber, with generous fireplaces and approved chimneys, and hoped to be allowed to enjoy them until the opening of spring should summon them to fresh campaigns. In this they were disappointed. On the 23d of December the ground was covered with snow and the air was clear and crisp, making the atmosphere of the well-built quarters doubly enjoyable. Before night orders came to be ready to move, and on the 24th the division broke camp and marched, over roads that would have been almost impassable but for a foundation of recently laid corduroy, to Culpeper Court-House, which was reached about four P.M. Here the regiment bivouacked just outside of the upper end of the town, in a grove of young pines, not far from a large frame dwelling which had been selected by General Kenly as his head-quarters. The 143d and 149th went into the oak timber half a mile beyond, on the property of a Mrs. Green,—a comely widow of most lady-like manners and still in the freshness of her womanhood,—a part of whose delightful old mansion was occupied by Colonel Wister and the brigade staff.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

CULPEPER—RACCOON FORD—A WOULD-BE INCAPABLE—AN  
APPEAL TO CESAR—RESIGNATIONS.

ON account of the cold, and indifferent shelter, the first night at Culpeper was cheerless enough, and Christmas morning found nothing in the stockings of the men but half-numbed feet. Fortunately, the grove in which the regiment was located offered ample material for winter-quarters, and a score of axes, in hands long accustomed to their use, soon cleared the ground and shaped the timber for building purposes. In two or three days, under the commander's supervision, a model camp was completed, as accurate in its alignments and snug in its construction as a well-ordered New England village. To insure proper drainage, the company streets were cleared of stumps, and surface sewers hollowed out on each side, leading down the slope to the little valley below. Then, by incessant raids on the commissary department, enough empty boxes were finally secured to furnish each hut with a substantial floor,—a matter of prime importance from a sanitary point of view. When all was finished, the regiment was justly proud of its camp, which in symmetry and picturesqueness was probably not surpassed by any in the army.

Colonel Wister now commanded five regiments,—viz., the 121st, 142d, 143d, 149th, and 150th Pennsylvania,—which by the consolidation of the First and Second Brigades became the First, while Colonel Dushane's brigade of Marylanders, previously the Third, became the Second. The morning reports of the 150th showed two hundred and forty one enlisted men

present for duty, and the entire strength of the First Brigade did not equal that of two full regiments.

On December 27, Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper writes, "General Kenly has taken a great liking to our regiment, and one result is that I secured, out of proper position, a beautiful grove as a site for our camp, and the men are busily felling the trees for their huts. It is raining terribly, and the men are still lying on the ground, tentless. I pity them from the bottom of my heart."

On December 29 he continues, "I have been in the saddle nearly all day, hurrying the men in their work of camp-making, so that another storm will find them housed against its fury. I tired out the major's horse this morning and rode mine in the afternoon. Bought some boards on a fence, and hope by to-morrow night to have regimental head-quarters attractive enough to make the major glad to return to his 'home and family,' as I hope he will do soon [the major was absent on leave]. The other regimental commanders laugh when they ask me how I got so nice a place for our camp."

"January 1, 1864. At three, Major C—— and I dined at division head-quarters. Owing to weakness from our wounds, we are both housed away from the regiment, but the men make such a racket at night that we must join them as soon as we can get our hut finished.

"Colonel Wister received a box of toys this morning, which he intends for presents to the children in Culpeper."

The long-awaited resting-time had at last arrived. On New Year's Day, Dixon, of Company A, records in his diary, "The Blue Ridge covered with snow. Clear and cold."

On the 2d he is still more brief: "Very cold last night."

Of course, in such weather, with the ground frozen and rough beyond description, drilling was not even thought of, and as both camp and picket details were light, there was ample leisure for reading and reflection, social visits and card-

playing, especially the latter. On the 3d the lieutenant-colonel writes, "Colonel Wister's resignation has been disapproved because of his excellence as a brigade commander.

"The major goes to camp to-day, and I follow soon. We have not had a dress parade or held an inspection for ten days, so that the men might work on their huts and camp."

On the 7th the same officer notes the fact that the thermometer marks ten degrees above zero, and adds that he and the major "are discussing which shall sit up to-night and tend fire."

Some little excitement prevailed for a day or two in the camp of the 150th, immediately after the men had settled down in their new quarters, in consequence of the disappearance of a fine heifer belonging to one of the citizens of the town. Complaint was made at division head-quarters, and a patrol was sent out to discover, if possible, what disposition had been made of the carcass. Diligent search was made in the huts of the 150th for traces of the contraband beef, but nothing was found, although nearly every pound of it was hidden away under the floors, and afterwards formed part of savory stews and roasts which filled the camp with grateful odors. There was reason to believe that the officer in charge of the investigation not only had no heart in his work, but was in full sympathy with those who were concerned in the abduction and slaughter of the animal. At all events, his report was such as to relieve the regiment from suspicion of any participation in the affair.

General Kenly having gone North on leave of absence about the beginning of the new year, Colonel Dushane was temporarily in command of the division. On the 9th of January the following order was received at regimental head-quarters:

"SPECIAL ORDER NO. 7.

"A board, to consist of Major Chamberlin, 150th Pennsylvania Volunteers; Captain Irvin, 149th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers; and

Captain W. W. Dorr, 121st Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, will assemble at the Head-Quarters First Brigade, Third Division, on Monday, January 11, 1864, at nine A.M., or as soon thereafter as practicable, for the examination of First Lieutenant William C. Andrews, Company F, 8th Regiment Maryland Volunteers, as to his qualification as an officer, he having tendered his resignation on the ground of alleged incompetency. Captain Dorr will act as recorder of the board, and will forward the proceedings to these Head-Quarters.

“By command of

“COLONEL DUSHANE.

[Signed] “EDWARD C. BAIRD,  
“*Major and A. A. G.*

“HD.-QRS. FIRST BRIG., THIRD DIV.,  
“FIRST ARMY CORPS.  
“January 9, 1864.

“Official:

“JOHN E. PARSONS,  
“*Lieut. and A. A. A. G.*”

The case was so unusual that the officers named in the special order awaited with no little curiosity their meeting with Lieutenant Andrews. At the time and place appointed he appeared, young, bright, alert, with prepossessing manners, and free from every trace of the dejection that might have been looked for in one who thought so meanly of his own ability. When the examination began, his pride evidently got the better of his intentions, and throughout the sitting his replies to questions concerning the manual, company, and battalion movements, and all the duties of a line-officer, were so prompt and correct that at the close the board felt satisfied that not one in a dozen of his rank was equally well instructed, and wondered what on earth had prompted him to resign on such a preposterous plea. The chairman could only hint at the propriety of an explanation, which the young man was indisposed to give; and as the order constituting the board exacted no recommendation one way or the other on their part, the recorder was instructed to send up the minutes as they stood, with the verbatim replies

to the several questions, leaving to the division commander the final decision of the case. Whether the lieutenant was permitted to retire to private life, or retained in the position which he was so competent to fill, none of the examining officers ever learned; but they all agreed at the time that there was "a woman in the case."

In a letter written January 29, Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper states, "General Newton, his wife, and some friends rode over last evening to witness the best dress parade our regiment ever had. Mrs. Newton remarked to me that she had been told the 150th was above all other regiments in its excellence of drill and discipline."

On the 31st he adds, "General Newton brought a friend in citizen's dress to our camp to-day, to see 'the finest camp in the Army of the Potomac,' he said."

Chaplain William McCormick, who had been promoted to that position from the ranks of Company C, February 13, 1863, was discharged on the 14th of January, 1864, on surgeon's certificate of disability.

About the same time William Wright, who had been commissioned lieutenant and adjutant in the autumn of the previous year, but had been prevented from assuming the duties of his new position by a severe attack of sickness which kept him from the field for several months, returned to the regiment and relieved Acting Adjutant Tryon. Lieutenant Wright had previously been commissary sergeant, in which capacity he had given proof of superior ability, and won the approbation of the entire command.

Dr. John L. Morris, appointed assistant surgeon January 16, 1864, was assigned to the 150th, and reported for duty a few days later.

On the 6th of February the First Corps, under orders from General Sedgwick, who in General Meade's absence was in command of the army, advanced to Raccoon Ford to feel the

enemy and ascertain whether he was still in force in that neighborhood. Under cover of artillery, a body of infantry crossed the Rapidan and moved across the fields towards the higher ground, with a strong line of skirmishers well to the front, who soon encountered the rebel pickets and drove them back some distance. In a few minutes hurrying lines of rebel infantry came in view, and as soon as within range engaged the Union troops. The latter, in accordance with their instructions, fought in retreat, and, under the protection of well-posted batteries, safely repassed the river. The whole movement was beautifully executed, and the action, which lasted less than half an hour, was in plain sight and offered a most interesting spectacle. The corps bivouacked in the woods for the night, with a heavy cordon of pickets near the stream. Rain fell in torrents, and in the chill air, with insufficient shelter, both officers and men suffered great discomfort, laying the foundation of many severe colds and other more serious ailments. The next day continued wet, and, the ground having become excessively miry, no further demonstration was made. About four o'clock in the afternoon the troops started on the return march, leaving the pickets in position until after nightfall, when the disagreeable duty fell to Major Chamberlin—who had relieved Colonel Dushane in the morning—of gathering in about four hundred men, scattered along a line of perhaps three miles, and leading them, in Egyptian darkness, over roads in which the mud seemed almost fathomless, back to their quarters at Culpeper. Soon after quitting the front the column encountered and was sharply challenged by a large cavalry outpost, mounted and in line of battle, with carbines in hand, who, not having been informed of the fact that the infantry pickets were still out, mistook the latter for the enemy and were upon the point of firing. Many shoes were left sticking in the mud on this memorable march, and haversacks and canteens whose straps proved unequal to the strain were irretrievably lost.

Again peace and quiet reigned in the army, and, the weather continuing fickle, little was asked of officers or men beyond their regular "turn" of camp and picket duty, though dress parade was observed with the usual formality as often as the conditions warranted. "Poker"—more or less indulged in at all times—suddenly became an absorbing occupation, the private soldier yielding to its fascinations as readily as his superiors, and risking his scanty allowance as heedlessly as the latter their liberal stipend. At the various head-quarters—brigade, division, corps, and army—the game had immense vogue, and not infrequently members of the staffs lost or won, in a single night, the pay of several months. The epidemic struck the camp of the 150th, along with the rest,—in one case with an unfortunate result. Lieutenant Rose, of Company I, in disregard of a well-established regulation, sought play and companionship among some of the enlisted men of his command. This might have passed with a reprimand, had it come to the knowledge of head-quarters in a quiet way; but in an altercation which arose one night over the cards, long after "taps" had sounded, blows were exchanged, accompanied by loud and violent language from the lieutenant, whose voice could easily be distinguished by the entire regiment, and in the interest of discipline the commander was compelled to prefer charges against the offender. A court-martial followed, whose sentence of dismissal from the service was duly confirmed, February 23, 1864.

During the month of February many ladies visited their friends in the army, and were handsomely entertained at the various head-quarters. Excursions on horseback and in ambulances to Pony Mountain and other points of interest were of almost daily occurrence, and review followed review, chiefly—it was thought—for the benefit of these welcome visitors. On the 16th the Third Division of the First Corps was reviewed, on the 21st the Bucktail Brigade paraded in its best regimentals,

and on the 23d, General Newton exhibited his whole command to a body of distinguished guests. On several afternoons groups of officers and ladies, mounted or in ambulances, came from corps head-quarters to witness the dress parades of the 150th, whose white gloves, natty uniforms, and perfect handling of the musket had extended its reputation quite beyond the limits of the division. Even General Newton complimented the regiment by his presence on two of these occasions.

Immediately after the review on the 23d, the Misses Kennedy, of Washington City, and other invited guests were entertained at dinner by Colonel Wister, at his head-quarters in Widow Green's mansion. In the evening the colonel appeared for the last time at the dress parade of his regiment, and at its close took leave of the command in a few words full of feeling. All of the officers and many of the men thronged about him to grasp his hand and wish him well in his career as a private citizen. His resignation dates from the 22d, and on the 24th he left for home.

Colonel Wister was a Quaker by descent, and shared many of the virtues of that severe sect, while casting his lines chiefly with the "world's people." From the bluntness and honesty of his ways, the stranger was apt to receive a disagreeable impression at first acquaintance; but once admitted to a footing of intimacy, no one could have desired a better friend or a more genial companion. He was a hater of all shams, and impatient of every form of meanness. As a soldier, he was alert, brave, and full of resource,—traits which stood him in good stead as a commander. After serving actively for nearly three years, during which he received two wounds, and commanding a brigade for the last seven months, he felt—now that he was about to be relieved from the higher position by the return of Colonel Roy Stone—that his little regiment, which had been reduced by battle and disease to less than two hundred and fifty men for duty, could get along very well without him, and

that he could properly be spared from the field to attend once more to his long-neglected private interests.\*

There were few companies at the seat of war which did not contain at least one disillusioned youth who had found soldiering anything but the picnic he had painted it, and, dispirited by sickness or chafing under the restraint of military discipline, was ready to adopt almost any measure to compass his return to the parental roof. Receiving little but ridicule from his comrades and meagre allowance of sympathy from his immediate officers, he not infrequently poured his tale of woe into the ears of some one high in authority, in the hope of obtaining the desired relief. President Lincoln no doubt received many communications like the following, which is a *verbatim et literatim* copy of a document referred down through the "regular channels," starting at the White House and ending at the head-quarters of the regiment:

"*Written to the President of the United States.*

"CAMP NEAR CULPEPER

"Feby the 20th, 64.

"PRESADENT SIR, MR A. LINCOLN.—I this evning I sit down to write to you (a Soldier Friend!). Mr L, I am a private in Comp. H. 150th Regt. Pa. Vol. I enlisted in the year 1862, September the 1st and sworn into United States Service on the 4th day September. I was a Stought and heartey Farmer Boy then. My first Sickness was braught on by lying on the ground allthough it was warm wether and on the 28th of Oct. / 62 I was taken to Carver Hospital with the Typhoid Fever and where I had a hard Strugle betwene life and deth, and since then I havent ben fit fore a Soldier; and in January I left Carver Hospital fore my Regt I had hered that I was gowing to leave fore Vergina and I wanted to go with them allthough

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\* Colonel Wister (who received the brevet rank of brigadier-general at the close of the war, on the recommendation of Major-General Doubleday) died at Germantown, March 19, 1891, at the home in which he was born, in his fifty-seventh year. He was laid to rest in Laurel Hill Cemetery by the surviving field- and staff-officers of his regiment, his coffin draped with its cherished colors, bearing the record of its many battles.

I was not fit, and I went with them to Bell plain Landing whare we landed on a very fine day and marched about 2 miles where we Encamped we made tents or Shelters from the gum blankets ore Ponshows, and we laid down on the Cold ground which frose that night hard and it rained till near Midnight and then it commenced to snow and it snowed all that day, and I was agane put in the Regt. Hospital and about a Week ore two after I was Detailed fore Teamster in the Ordanence Department. I was sick there about two weekes and then I was In purty good health such as it was I was Teamster about 6 months that was till after the Gs, Burg Battel when we came to Raphanack River there I was taken with the Cronick Diareah and then with Typhoid Fever I was sent to Fairfax Simunary where onder the good care of Dr Huselton I was brought around so I could walk I was then sent from there to Chestnut Hill Hospital whare I Receved very good atension from Dr Budd and on the 18th of January 1864 I left Chestnut Hill Hosp fore my Regt. I arived at Convalescent Camp January the 22d / 64 here I aught to have ben Examend but I was not although I made an apllication fore it they told me that none ware Examind there at that time they told us that we would be examind at Jenareal Mead Head Quar. but we was not now I am in my Regement agane and not fit fore duty at all as the Typhoid Fever has as I think and the Doctors say Disabled me for life. I am Entirely lame in my left Side the Medical Directors at Convalesants Camp told me to appley to my Capt and to the Comander of the Regt. fore my Discharge well this Evning the Captain Came back from his forlow and came to see me and he wanted to know how I was geting along I told him how it was and Showed him my Sertificates of Dibility but he said he dident no what to due about it he sead he couldent do Enything fore me that he new of he said that the Doctors would be likely to keepe me till the Army Moved and then they would send me of to the Hospital at Washington agane.

" Now Mr L. I am but a poor farmer Boy. I have lost my health in this Nobel Cause of ours in trying to put down this Rebelion the Tradors of the South they that tore down that Nobel flag of General Washington the Flag that our fore Fathers gave to us. Mr Lincoln I am as I told you a poor farmer son my Mother is a widow she was willing to let me come to help to crush this Rebelion but alas that young man of 20 years that was then in full Bloom is now but a faided flower of the North nothing but a Skeliton that onst wore those Rosey cheeks of heith. I have 8 Brothers and Sisters all younger then myself the next oldest to me has broken his leg So he is a cripel for life so I am all my Mothers Suport if I was at home where I could get the Comforts of life I think I would get back my health at least so I could Earn my living and be a grate Com-

fort to my Mother where heare I am only Expence to the Goverment and doeing my Country no good.

" My kind Friend of Friends you have the power to help me a grate deal you have the power to due it if I am not mistaken which I hope not my Friend will you please see to my case I am in Misery heare last night I had the Eare ache most all night and I have a bad sore throat. will you my dear Friend see to my case fore me you can due it a grate deal fore me ; healp me fore my poor widow Mother sake healp me out of my misery as I am in misery as long till I can lay in Some beter place than on the cold damp ground healp me before it is to late and I will bless you as long as there is breath in me. I would willingly help my fellow comrads put down this rebellion but my heath wont permit me to due so.

" I must close my letter by Sending my blessings of which I ask of god upon you and may god Bless you the Remandier of your life is the prayer of your soldier friend — — —.

" Mr Lincoln

" if you wish to write to my Captain ore Cornel Address Cornel Wister 150 Reg P.V. Captaine (James) Reisinger of Comp H 150 Regt. Pa Vols

" if you will write to me and tel me if you can due anything fore me, address — — —

" Comp. H 150 Reg pa Vol

" in care of Capt Reisinger

" Washington D. C.

" please help me if you can your obedient Survent — — —

" I hope Mr Presadent that you will foregive me fore my forewardness to you and in Asking of you such a faveret

" I speake not ill of my Comanders they say that they can not due me enything at all Sir I have Certificates sined and sworne to in my posesion by Reliabel Doctors and if you wish to see them I will send them to you.

" I am sory to put you to in eny way in trouble of eny kind, but I did not no ho to turn to fore Redress and some of my friends told me to write to the *President* that there I would get my right.

" I have a grate Confidence in our Good Presadent hoe has dun a grate deal fore us poor Soldiers

" Mr Lincoln

" there are a few more of such men ore boys as myself hear are not fit to be a Solder than I am."

This extraordinary petition, embellished with many quaint conceits of ornamental penmanship, utterly failed of its object.

The "faidet flower of the North" in a few weeks outgrew his complicated ailments, bore his musket manfully, and was counted among the seriously wounded in the fierce encounter of the Wilderness on the 5th of the following May.

On the retirement of Colonel Wister, Lieutenant-Colonel Huidekoper was commissioned colonel (February 23), but the strength of the regiment having fallen below the *minimum* fixed by the War Department, he was not entitled to muster. The loss of his right arm proved so serious a disability that, despite his devotion to the cause and his natural fondness for military things, he deemed it only the part of wisdom to return to civil life, leaving to others the work in which he had already made so heavy a sacrifice. His resignation was sent in on the 2d of March, and three days later he took leave of the regiment, to the great regret not merely of his own command, but of many officers in the brigade, division, and corps, who recognized in him one of the ablest tacticians of his rank and one of the best disciplinarians in the army.

Captain J. W. H. Reisinger was soon after transferred to another field of service, having received a commission as major in the 25th United States Colored Troops, dating from March 12. The vacancy thus created in his company was not filled until June, when Lieutenant George Bell became captain.

In the early part of March a number of bright, spring-like days dried up the mud and drew the troops to the drill-field as naturally as school-boys, under similar conditions, are drawn to the play-ground. Here, it was the school of the company, the battalion, the brigade, which in the course of a week or two gave to each man as thorough a knowledge of the fields around Culpeper as if he had been a local surveyor. Inspections and reviews continued to fill up odd intervals, cavalry and artillery taking their turn with the well-worked infantry in these frequent diversions. It began to be whispered that im-

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COLONEL GEORGE W. JONES.



QUARTERMASTER A. S. VOORHIS.



ADJUTANT WILLIAM WRIGHT.



ASSISTANT SURGEON J. L. MORRIS.

portant changes were about to be made in the organization of the Army of the Potomac, and that General Grant was to be summoned East to direct its operations in the coming campaign, clothed with powers which would enable him to control all the forces of the Union and move them in concert on one far-reaching plan. These rumors were speedily confirmed. On the 9th of March the grade of lieutenant-general, which had been revived by Congress, was bestowed upon Grant, who lost no time in visiting the army at Culpeper and conferring with General Meade, though he did not transfer his head-quarters to Virginia until some weeks later. Meade's plan of reorganization contemplated the consolidation of the First and Third Corps with the Fifth and Second respectively, by which each of the latter would thereafter contain four divisions.

On the 17th of March, Major Chamberlin, who had been commissioned lieutenant-colonel on the 6th, to succeed Colonel Huidekoper, and who had been practically in command of the regiment the greater part of the time since the closing days of August, 1863, left the army and returned to civil life. His health had been impaired by exposure during the winter, and the disability resulting from his wounds was such that either hospital treatment or a definitive withdrawal from the field became imperative. He regretfully chose the latter alternative, and, his resignation having been accepted (on surgeon's certificate of disability), turned over the command to Captain George W. Jones, the ranking line-officer. Captain Widdis, who was still a prisoner in the South, was commissioned lieutenant-colonel, to date from March 18, but for some unexplained reason Captain Jones failed to receive his promotion as major until the 30th of the following month. At this time the regiment, numbering a little less than two hundred and fifty men, was in the highest state of efficiency, and—as Colonel Huidekoper had truthfully declared—"gave no more trouble than a brood of chickens."

## CHAPTER XIX.

## ACROSS THE RAPIDAN—THE WILDERNESS.

THE merging of the First Army Corps into the Fifth, by which the former lost its identity during the rest of the war, was a source of profound regret to all who had served with it, and under McDowell, Hooker, Reynolds, and Doubleday had assisted in giving it an enduring name in history. Unfortunately, the departure of a number of regiments whose terms of enlistment had expired, and the marked depletion of its ranks by the accidents of battle, seemed to justify this disagreeable measure, against which even those who questioned its expediency hesitated to present a formal protest.

By this change the Fifth Corps was much strengthened, and consisted thenceforward of four divisions, commanded in their numerical order by Generals Griffin, Robinson, Crawford, and Wadsworth. Stone's brigade became the *third* in Wadsworth's (Fourth) division.

The army continued its encampment in the vicinity of Culpeper, and until the beginning of May every portion of it was kept astir, drilling almost daily—frequently in heavy marching order—in preparation for the severe demands about to be made upon it. Inspections were frequent and thorough, to detect and remedy any defects in the equipment of the troops while the needed supplies were easily within reach.

Special Order No. 78, issued by General Wadsworth, April 6, contained the following paragraph:

“ 10. Lieutenant-Colonel Osborne, division inspector, and Lieutenant Tinker, division ordnance officer, will forthwith make a thorough inspection of the arms and equipments of this command, and will report thereupon; and likewise in the order of merit or demerit of the three regiments

in which the arms and equipments are in the best condition, and the three in which they have been most neglected.

" This report will be made as soon as possible, and will be published throughout the command."

From the circular which was soon after published, it will be seen that the 150th continued to maintain its well-earned reputation, and but for the fact that the 6th Wisconsin enjoyed the advantage of a more recent issue of clothing, the Bucktail Regiment would probably have stood first in the order of merit in dress and appearance.

" HEAD-QUARTERS FOURTH DIVISION, FIFTH ARMY CORPS,  
" April 16, 1864.

" CIRCULAR.

" The following extract from the report of the inspection made pursuant to paragraph 10 of Special Orders No. 78 from these head-quarters is furnished for the information of the command :

" " The three regiments in which the arms and equipments were in the best condition are as follows :

- " " 1. 6th Wisconsin Veteran Volunteers.
- " " 2. 150th Pennsylvania Volunteers.
- " " 3. 147th New York Volunteers.

" " The percentage in excellence of condition of the arms and equipments is equal.

" " The 6th Wisconsin Veteran Volunteers excelled in neatness of clothing and appearance.

" " The three regiments in which the arms and equipments were in the worst condition are as follows :

- " " 1. 95th New York Volunteers.
- " " 2. 24th Michigan Volunteers.
- " " 3. 121st Pennsylvania Volunteers.

" " The percentage of excellence of condition of arms and equipments in the 95th New York Volunteers was the lowest of the above three regiments, but they excelled the others in neatness of clothing and appearance.'

" This circular will be read at the first dress parade after it is received in each regiment of this division.

" By command of

" BRIGADIER-GENERAL WADSWORTH.

" A. W. H. GILL,

" *Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*"

On the night of May 3 camp was broken, and soon after midnight, with the cavalry in the lead, the army started on the most wearing campaign it had ever undertaken. Grant was at the front to direct its movements, and officers and men alike felt that the two great opposing forces were about to enter upon the home-stretch, with chances in favor of the North, which could best stand the hard knocks and more readily fill the gaps necessarily resulting from a long succession of conflicts.

The 150th left Culpeper shortly before dawn, its strength (as ascertained from a copy of the last weekly report made by H. M. Kieffer, hospital steward, just prior to the movement) being about three hundred and forty-six officers and men. Late in the forenoon it crossed the Rapidan at Germanna Ford, on a pontoon bridge over which a good portion of the Fifth Corps (Warren's) had already passed. The Sixth Corps (Sedgwick's) followed the Fifth. The latter moved without interruption to Old Wilderness Tavern, and bivouacked in line, facing west, with Sedgwick on the right. The Second Corps (Hancock's) rested at Chancellorsville, having crossed the river at Ely's Ford.

In pursuance of orders from General Grant, Warren, early on the morning of the 5th, set his corps in motion to take up a position at Parker's Store, on the Orange plank road. The 150th, under Major Jones, was sent to the front as one of the regiments of skirmishers, and long before the objective point was reached, the enemy was encountered and his skirmish line forced back upon the main body. Wright's division of the Sixth Corps joined Warren's right, and Getty's division, also of the Sixth Corps, was ordered to Warren's left. In this formation a general attack was made, the line extending across both the Orange plank road and the Orange turnpike, which at this point were separated by a considerable belt of dense forest, the same nearly impenetrable screen of woods continuing north and south of these almost parallel roads. Hancock was in-

structed to re-enforce Getty, who was somewhat isolated from Warren, and join in his assault.

Owing to the wilderness-like nature of the ground which was fought over, it is impossible to give a lucid account of the various movements, or specify their limits with absolute accuracy. It was for the most part a battle of musketry, the artillery finding little opportunity of doing effective work. When Warren's main line advanced, overtaking and passing the skirmishers, Major Jones re-formed a large portion of his command and moved with the supports, but many of his skirmishers continued with the attacking force, which pushed back the opposing lines through the thick woods, amid a din of volleys and yells that may well be qualified as *infernal*. The rush of the Union advance soon spent itself, and encountering fresh bodies of rebel infantry, Warren's exhausted men were compelled to yield ground rapidly, and with more or less confusion, until they reached some breastworks which, fortunately, had been thrown up by the troops in the rear. Here, as related by Sergeant Ramsey, "a number of the scattered members of the 150th got together, and, in charge of a non-commissioned officer of the regiment, by order of a staff-officer, took and held a position in the breastworks until the onset of the rebel line was checked. They then hunted up and rejoined the regiment, which, with the brigade, was found at a point near the Lacey House." Stone's command suffered heavily in this morning engagement, contributing a long list of killed and wounded to the aggregate of casualties.

Late in the afternoon Wadsworth's division and Baxter's brigade of Robinson's were ordered to the left to report to Hancock, whose troops, with Getty's, were in hot conflict with the enemy at and near the intersection of the Brock and plank roads. In line of battle facing southward, with a strong force of skirmishers well in advance, Wadsworth moved in the direction of the firing; but the almost impenetrable thicket of young

pines impeded his progress to such an extent that night overtook him before he succeeded in striking Hill's left flank or connecting with Hancock. Stine, in his "History of the Army of the Potomac," says, "General Wadsworth's orders were to proceed quietly. The conflict with the Confederate pickets, and Colonel Roy Stone's enthusiasm, made it [presumably the *forest*] a howling wilderness."

The firing in Hancock's front having ceased, and the darkness making it impossible longer to preserve an alignment, Wadsworth, in uncertainty as to his bearings, prudently halted his troops, who rested on their arms in line of battle.

Grant, in his Memoirs, states that Hancock was to make an assault on the morning of May 6, at five o'clock, and that Wadsworth, who lay to Hancock's right, almost perpendicular to Hill's line, was to move at the same time and attack Hill's left. Wadsworth advanced at half-past five, and was soon in touch with the Second Corps, which was pushing to the attack. The troops of Birney, who commanded the right wing of Hancock's force, extended across the Orange plank road at the outset, but they were gradually crowded to the left as the movement progressed, and a portion of Wadsworth's command, including the 150th, presently found itself on the left of the road, and so continued during the morning. Hill was pressed back rapidly a mile or more, but not without severe fighting, in which the Union arms received many momentary checks. Some confusion prevailed in both Hancock's and Wadsworth's ranks, owing to the nature of the field, and regiments and brigades became more or less intermingled; but the men responded with alacrity to every order to stand or advance, and up to about seven o'clock no rearward step was taken. At the farthest point reached by the 150th, Sergeant Ramsey received a severe wound, which resulted in the loss of a leg, and for a time he lay between the contending lines. Before the hour named, Longstreet's troops had begun to arrive, and

the presence of Field's and Kershaw's divisions was speedily felt. As stated by General Humphreys, Meade's chief of staff, "It was when Hancock's troops were partially checked by the fresh troops of Longstreet's corps that the necessity of readjusting his formation became imperative. Regiments were separated from their brigades and mixed with others, and the line of battle was very irregular, and commanders were in this way losing the control of their troops."

Such readjustment was effected as circumstances would permit, the left of Birney's line, which had outstripped the centre, being drawn back some distance; but little headway was made after Longstreet's troops and Anderson's division of Hill's corps became factors in the engagement. In the varying fortunes of the morning, the 150th clung to the plank road and its immediate vicinity, charging time and again in the face of a destructive fire, and losing many men. On several occasions, as related by Major Jones and others, General Wadsworth, who was always at the front, called out in his paternal way, "Come on, Bucktails!" and led the little regiment in person against the enemy.

Between nine and ten o'clock the Iron Brigade, commanded by General Cutler, and a portion of Roy Stone's command, were borne backward in some disorder, but other troops were thrown into the gap as speedily as possible, re-forming the line, but not without loss of ground. An hour or two later a successful flank movement, executed by portions of Longstreet's and Hill's commands, overcame the left of Hancock's line, compelling it to retreat; and at the same time a violent attack by fresh masses in front involved the centre and right in a similar misfortune, the entire line being swept back towards the breast-works held in the morning. Wadsworth, who had previously had two horses killed under him, in his efforts to rally his men and hold his position, was now mortally wounded, a ball passing through his head, and fell into the hands of the enemy.

He was on the plank road at the time, leading his horse, having been persuaded to dismount by some of his officers, who remonstrated with him upon the folly of needlessly exposing himself to the fire of sharp-shooters. Upon this point the testimony of a number of officers and men of the 150th, who were near him when he was struck by the fatal bullet, is conclusive, although most of the published accounts of the battle represent the gray-headed hero as shot from his horse. Major Jones made a gallant effort to recover his body, but the enemy in vastly superior force pressed forward too rapidly to permit of success.

The division fell back to the Brock (or "mud") road at its intersection with the plank road, where a line of defences had been thrown up the previous evening. This fortified position was held tenaciously until the middle of the afternoon, when Longstreet's troops, by a heavy attack, succeeded in effecting a lodgement in a part of the works. Meanwhile, Lieutenant-Colonel Osborne, division inspector, had got together the remnants of Colonel Roy Stone's brigade, with the brigade and the several regimental colors still safe, and, leading them into the woods a few yards from the plank road, re-formed their line and instructed them to refresh themselves with coffee and such other supplies as their haversacks contained. Colonel Hoffman, of the 56th Pennsylvania, re-formed Rice's brigade of Robinson's division near the same spot. Colonel Stone had been disabled in the engagement of the morning by a fall from his horse, compelling him to retire, and at Osborne's suggestion, Lieutenant-Colonel Irvin, of the 149th Pennsylvania, assumed command of his brigade. About four o'clock, soon after Longstreet had won a portion of the fortified line near the intersection of the two roads, General Hancock, accompanied by one of his aides, Captain Wilson, came riding through the woods, and finding Irvin's and Hoffman's men in good shape, called out sharply, "What troops are those?" Receiving

a prompt response, he said, "Just what I want," and immediately gave orders to the two brigades to charge and retake the lost works. Instantly the lines were formed, and, advancing swiftly, rushed upon the intrenchments, which, after a brief but bloody encounter, were freed from the clutch of the enemy, who was pursued far beyond into the woods.

Strangely enough, General Hancock, in his official report of the battle, gives the credit of this gallant achievement to Carroll's brigade, of his own corps, which had nothing whatever to do with it; and General Grant, in his "Personal Memoirs," and General Humphreys, in "The Virginia Campaign of '64 and '65," naturally perpetuate the error. General Hancock, to whose attention the matter was brought by General Hoffman and others, admitted that he had been guilty of an inadvertence, and promised to straighten the record, but passed away without doing so.

Among those who lost their lives in this brilliant and successful charge was Captain Horatio Bell, of Company G, who was one of the first to mount the works, and with the rifle which was his constant companion in the field, gave proofs of superior marksmanship. Though comparatively devoid of education, and as little versed in the niceties of the tactics as in the processes of the higher mathematics, he possessed great natural ability, was accomplished in woodcraft, and with an absolute devotion to the cause of the Union united a degree of physical courage that was equal to any test. He died lamented not only by his own company, but by the entire regiment and by many outside of the command, who recognized his zeal, his valor, and his rugged honesty.

Soon after the recapture of the breastworks the brigade was relieved and led to the rear, where it was permitted to rest that night and the following day, though a large detail was sent to the front, beyond the works, for picket duty. Major Jones, who was in charge of the pickets that night, relates that soon

after the men were posted one of the line-officers\* came to him in the twilight and reported a regiment of federal troops as located a short distance in his front. The major, mystified by this intelligence, and deeming the matter worthy of investigation, accompanied his informant to the spot indicated, and there, true enough, found a line of men in blue, but all silent in death! Proceeding a little farther to the front, he discovered a similar line in gray,—mute witnesses to the desperate nature of the morning's struggle.

The battle of the Wilderness was over, and neither side could claim any decided advantage. Both armies were much exhausted, for every portion of the two lines had been warmly engaged at one time or another, and at times the contest raged along the entire front. The noise of the musketry, multiplied and re-echoed by the thick woods, was often frightful, and many a stout heart which had passed unshrinkingly through the dangers of well-fought fields quailed before the leaden blast which cut and stripped the young pines as if a cyclone had swept over them. To add to the horrors of the strife, the underbrush took fire at many points in the wooded belt which formed the principal scene of the protracted struggle, and a large area, in which lay many dead and helpless wounded, was ravaged by the flames. Even the breastworks were in places invaded by this new enemy, and the smoke from the muskets of the contending infantry mingled with the hotter smoke of burning timber. It was a fearful experience, which those who shared it will remember to their dying day.

From copies of his weekly reports, kindly furnished by Hospital Steward Kieffer, the mean strength of the regiment is ascertained for each week to November 19, 1864. From that of May 7 the following figures are taken:

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\* Captain Rorer.

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Mean strength of regiment | 276 |
| Taken sick                | 6   |
| Wounded                   | 74  |
| Died of wounds            | 2   |

As the mean strength of the regiment a week before was three hundred and forty-six, the deduction of eighty-two "sick," "wounded," and "died" would leave only two hundred and sixty-four for duty. The discrepancy is owing to the return of convalescents from the hospitals.

The field hospitals took no note of the killed, but from Bates's "History" and other sources is derived the following list of those who were killed or died soon after of their wounds:

*Company A.*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Corporal Samuel J. White, killed May 6. |   |
| Private Michael Sheehan, killed May 6.  | 2 |

*Company B.*

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Corporal James McCann, killed May 5.  |   |
| Corporal Jonathan Wood, killed May 5. | 2 |

*Company D.*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Captain Roland Stoughton, wounded May 5; died May 27. |   |
| Private James Lucas, wounded May 6; died same day.    | 2 |

*Company E.*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Private Timothy Hefferman, killed May 5. |   |
| Private William Meyers, killed May 5.    | 2 |

*Company F.*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Private David T. Jenkins, mortally wounded May 6. | 1 |
|---|---|

*Company G.*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Captain Horatio Bell, killed May 6.                               |   |
| Private Luther Adams, mortally wounded; died May 20.              |   |
| Private Delos Otto, killed May 5.                                 |   |
| Private Charles B. Slocum, mortally wounded May 5;<br>died May 6. | 4 |

*Company H.*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Private David Brines, killed May 6.                  |   |
| Private James M. Close, killed May 6.                |   |
| Private Sansom Smith, killed May 6.                  |   |
| Private Silas Smith, killed May 5.                   |   |
| Private Andrew J. Work, mortally wounded May 5; died |   |
| May 16.  | 5 |

*Company I.*

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Private Alexander Curry, killed May 5.           |    |
| Private Cyrus J. Lane, killed May 5.             |    |
| Private Henry B. Lathrop, mortally wounded; died |    |
| May 10.  |    |
| Private Christian H. Rouss, killed May 5.        | 4  |
| Total . . . . .                                  | 22 |

## CHAPTER XX.

## LAUREL HILL—SPOTTSYLVANIA.

ON the 7th of May reconnoissances revealed the fact that Lee, in spite of the success which he claimed in the two days' fighting, had withdrawn his troops to fortified lines a mile and a half from the Union front, doubtless in the hope of receiving an attack where he would have all the advantage of position. In Grant's opinion, however, the rebel army was preparing to retire rapidly on Richmond for the purpose of crushing Butler, who had established himself on the James River at City Point. General Grant accordingly gave orders for a flank movement that night to Spottsylvania Court-House. His able antagonist, flattering himself that he had so seriously crippled the federal forces that they would in all probability fall back on Fredericksburg, ordered Anderson, who succeeded to the command of Longstreet's corps after the wounding of that general, to march rapidly to Spottsylvania on the morning of the 8th, with instructions to strike Grant's flank, if his supposition proved correct. Thus each of these great leaders was in error as to the real condition and intentions of the other,—a state of things not uncommon in the course of the war.

On account of the forest fires, Anderson started on the evening of the 7th, and was in a fortified position ready to engage Warren when the head of the latter's column, leading the Union advance, reached his front at dawn of the 8th. Warren attacked, supposing—as intimated by General Grant—that he had to do with a force of the enemy's cavalry. Naturally his assault failed. A second effort was more successful. "This

time," says General Grant, "he succeeded in gaining a position immediately in the enemy's front, where he intrenched. His right and left divisions—the former Crawford's, the latter Wadsworth's, now commanded by Cutler—drove the enemy back some distance."

Bates, in his brief history of the 150th, preceding its muster-roll, says, "On the morning of the 8th the brigade again charged the enemy at Laurel Hill, driving him into his works, and establishing a line of defence under severe fire."

It may be well to state that while the fighting in the neighborhood of Spottsylvania Court-House, which lasted several days, is known by the general name of the "Battle of Spottsylvania," the actions of the Fifth Corps on the 8th and 9th of May are better known to the troops of that corps as the "Battle of Laurel Hill."

"At two P.M. of the 9th," continues Bates, "a charge was made by the entire division [Cutler's] upon the enemy's intrenched line. The woods through which the charge was made had been fired, and the men were subjected to the double torment of the blazing fagots and the enemy's missiles. The assault was fruitless, and many of the dying were left to perish in the flames."

Sergeant James H. Moore, of Company B, had charge of the colors of the regiment from the time of leaving Culpeper, and bore them through the exhausting struggles of the Wilderness and in the first day's encounters at Laurel Hill with commendable gallantry. In the engagement of the 8th he received two disabling wounds, and was succeeded as color-bearer by Sergeant Henry Wendler, of Company E, nicknamed the "Little Dutchman." The latter, in the several charges at Laurel Hill and Spottsylvania, greatly distinguished himself by his personal daring, drawing upon himself the favorable notice not only of his own regimental chief, but also of officers of other commands. On one occasion the colonel of a New York regiment,

which fought on the right of the 150th, called the attention of his color-sergeant to the admirable conduct of the Bucktail standard-bearer, and urged him to imitate his example; but he only elicited the reply, "The d—d fool doesn't know any better!"

During the forenoon of the 10th the ground in front of the several corps was thoroughly reconnoitred, and about four o'clock P.M. a general assault was ordered, in which the 150th participated. Warren's troops, in advancing, were obliged to traverse a ravine thickly covered with heavy timber on the sides, and with a tangle of underbrush at the bottom which proved well-nigh impenetrable. Necessarily the ranks were much disordered in forcing their way through. To mount the farther slope through the dense forest and dislodge an enemy numerous and well posted, with protecting breastworks, was no holiday task. The attack failed, as might have been foreseen, and Warren recoiled with heavy loss. Still later, another assault was made, Hancock uniting his forces with Wright's and Warren's, for the purpose of relieving Upton, who in the previous advance had gained a foothold on the enemy's line and clung tenaciously to it; and such was the impetuosity of the movement that portions of the works were speedily carried, though a counter-pressure on the part of the enemy as speedily compelled their abandonment. Upton, however, was freed from his isolated position, and the retiring troops were not pursued.

Soon after the charge, Major Jones, who had been sitting on the ground with his back resting against a sapling, rose to his feet just as Captain Sigler approached, when the latter remarked, "That's a good place," and seated himself on the same spot. The next instant a ricochetting solid shot struck the captain on the elbow, injuring him severely and relegating him to the hospital for a long term of treatment.

On the 12th, when Hancock's successful attack on the salient (known as the "Bloody Angle") took place, in which Johnson's

rebel division was captured, both Wright and Warren joined in the movement, the latter without result. In his official report Warren says, "I also again assailed the enemy's intrenchments, suffering heavy loss, but failed to get in. The enemy's direct and flank fire was too destructive. Lost very heavily. The enemy continuing to fire on the Second and Sixth Corps, I was compelled to withdraw Griffin's and Cutler's divisions and send them to the left to their support, where they again became engaged."

Bates makes no note of Warren's futile attack, but remarks, "On the 12th of May the brigade moved to the support of the Sixth Corps, in front of that part of the enemy's line known as the 'Bloody Angle,' and lay at the front, exposed to a severe fire, until the morning of the 13th, when, the enemy having retired, it returned to its former position."

Major Jones relates that, while the regiment lay in front of the salient that night, the officers kept guard, as did those of the entire brigade, in order to give the men a little rest. The musketry fire continued intermittently throughout the night, the balls flying over the sleeping forms of the men, but one of whom was killed, though several received injuries.

Before quitting the position the major was invited by Lieutenant Rorer, of Company B, to look upon a spectacle so weird and startling that, by his own confession, nothing in his whole experience as a soldier could approach it in impressiveness and ghastliness of detail. Not far from the point in the angle where the enemy made his most persistent efforts to undo the hold of the Union troops on his works, and where a tree nearly a foot and a half in diameter had been cut down by musket-balls, stood a caisson of a Sixth Corps battery, facing the fortifications, and perhaps not more than a hundred yards away, with its six horses still attached, but sunk to the earth, dead; the three drivers still in the saddle, likewise lifeless; while on the boxes rested six cannoneers, back to back, perforated with bul-

lets, their inanimate bodies supporting one another almost in the attitude of duty. So natural was the position and appearance of these latter that the major could convince himself that they were not alive only by reaching up and touching them.

Nothing could give a more realizing idea of the terrible storm of lead which swept this portion of the field than this statuesque group of the slain, and nothing more truly symbolize the perfection of discipline which prevailed in the artillery arm of the service. It is unnecessary to ask by what adventure, or misadventure, they came to be exposed to the sudden whirlwind of rebel volleys: it was one of the accidents of war, met with sublime courage, every man dying at his post.

From the 5th of May the fighting had been almost continuous and of the most desperate character, and many officers as well as men, unequal to the long physical strain, from time to time gave evidence of demoralization, dropping back from their commands as opportunity offered, and trying by various pretexts to get into the hospitals. These were relentlessly gathered up by the provost guard, and returned to their regiments to be dealt with as their commanders might deem best for the service. The discipline and standing of the 150th are brought into high relief by the fact that several line-officers from other organizations, whose valor had been badly shaken by repeated conflicts, were sent, stripped of the insignia of their rank, by sentence of drum-head court-martial, and provided with the arms and accoutrements of private soldiers, to share the fortunes of the regiment and redeem, if possible, their clouded reputations. Major Jones was quietly instructed to keep them in the "fore-front of battle" and maintain a close watch upon their conduct, as upon his report, after a given time, would depend their dismissal from the army or their restoration to their former places. This unique squad joined the 150th on the 13th of May, and was known as "Company Q." It is a pleasure to state that in subsequent engagements all of these

delinquents acquitted themselves so creditably that they were eventually permitted to return to their old commands.

On the night of May 13 the Fifth and Sixth Corps, Warren leading, moved to the extreme left and crossed the river Ny, encountering many difficulties owing to the intense darkness and almost impassable condition of the roads. On the morning of the 14th, Wright's troops had severe fighting in working up into position on Burnside's left. Lee changed his lines so as to confront Warren and Wright, and Hancock, having no longer an enemy facing him, moved in rear of the centre of the new line. At dawn of the 18th, Hancock and Wright, who in the night had returned to their old positions on Burnside's right, attacked Lee's left flank in the hope of dislodging it; but Lee seems to have anticipated the undertaking, and they encountered the enemy in such strength that the assault failed. This practically ended operations at Spottsylvania.

The Union army, although in no large measure successful, was everywhere the aggressor, and Lee stood strictly on the defensive. This in itself was a great gain to Grant's forces, filling them with a confidence which never afterwards deserted them, and which was sure to culminate some day in victory.

Again referring to Hospital Steward Kieffer's invaluable weekly reports, it will be seen that the 150th shared in the hardest of the fighting from the 8th to the 14th of May, and took credit on the rolls for a long list of casualties. On the latter date the mean strength of the regiment, which one week before was two hundred and seventy-six, had been reduced to ninety-three. As only an insignificant number had been "laid off" by sickness, and comparatively few fell into the hands of the enemy, death and wounds were the main factors in this notable reduction.

Colonel Fox, in "Regimental Losses," fixes the number of the killed and mortally wounded of the 150th, in this period of six days, at fifteen,—viz., on May 8, five; on the 10th, six; on the 12th, four. These figures are doubtless correct.

The following is the list of the killed and mortally wounded, so far as the writer has been able to ascertain the names:

*Company A.*

Sergeant Edward Austin, May 8.  
Sergeant Gabriel Thompson, May 10; died May 18.  
Private Joseph Fowler, May 10.

*Company B.*

Private Jacob M. Wartenby, May 8; died May 13.

*Company D.*

Corporal William Donachy, May 8.

*Company E.*

Corporal Isaac Doan, May 12.

*Company F.*

Private William A. Garrett, May 10.

*Company G.*

Private Luther M. Adams, May 10; died May 20.  
Private Philetus Southwick, May 10.

*Company H.*

Private John Bickerstaff, May 12; died May 13.  
Private Harlan P. Fields, May 8.  
Private Andrew Lee, May 12.

*Company I.*

Private Alexander McFarland, May 8.

No tribute could be paid to the courage and worth of all these men in excess of their real deserts. Of Sergeant Austin it may be said that, by his intelligence and solid, soldierly virtues, he had not only won the esteem of his immediate officers, but had attracted the attention of the regimental commander. Had he lived, he was in a fair way to win a commission before the close of hostilities, and the honor would have been well bestowed.

Corporal Donachy, who in the field, as at home, bore the nickname "Pointer," was as unselfish, patriotic, and brave a soldier as could be found in the Army of the Potomac. When, on the night of the arrival of the regiment at Chancellorsville, volunteers were called for to go on picket, with the almost absolute certainty of being fired upon before the line could be reached, he was the first man to respond; and whenever any particularly dangerous duty offered, none so ready to undertake it as Corporal Donachy.

## CHAPTER XXI.

## THE AFFAIR AT THE NORTH ANNA—TOTOPOTOMOY.

FINDING Lee indisposed to come out of his works and take the chances of a general engagement, General Grant resolved upon a further left-flank movement, in which Hancock took the lead on the night of the 20th. On the 21st, Warren's corps marched to Guiney's Station, and on the 22d to Harris's Store, west of Milford, at which latter point Hancock rested that day. On the morning of the 23d, Warren moved in the direction of Jericho Ford, on the North Anna, which he reached early in the afternoon. Griffin's division crossed first, wading the stream and deploying beyond. Cutler's division followed, forming on Griffin's right, the Iron Brigade connecting with the latter, with the Bucktail Brigade (commanded by Colonel Bragg since May 7) on the extreme right. Crawford's division took position on Griffin's left.

Of this movement Adjutant William Wright, of the 150th, says, "We crossed the North Anna in the advance of the Fifth Corps, on the extreme right of the line, so far as I know. There was no opposition, but we expected it, and therefore passed over in a great hurry. Having been out on the flank all of the preceding day, as skirmishers, and having made a very hard march that day, the men were bent with fatigue, and some who had never before complained now declared they could not go any farther. All the same, they went. We crossed at or near a mill, or mills, of some kind, one of which was undoubtedly a saw-mill, for there were piles of slabs and some shedding roofed with slabs, all of which were taken and thrown

into the river, one on top of another, until they formed a bridge, which we quickly crossed. The river was not wide, and comparatively shallow. We then deployed and advanced a short distance, but were halted for a brief interval, when we again moved forward perhaps six or seven hundred yards. Here we were again halted, apparently to go into camp for the night, *probably in pursuance of an order originating in the brain of some very tired man*, for we had hardly got settled down—some with dry wood on their shoulders for a quick fire, others with live chickens, etc., the spoils of the flanking of the day before (I well remember one fine-looking rooster that the major and I were promised a part of for supper)—when we had an order to deploy and advance to the woods in our front, which we obeyed with much complaining. Before reaching the woods I dismounted and gave my horse to 'Jimmy' Wilson, of Company B,—who was fairly staggering in his efforts to keep up,—to take to the rear, thinking that as soon as we got into the woods we would find the 'rebs,' as we generally did in all the woods we had been in since leaving Culpeper."

Here the adjutant's narrative must be interrupted and supplemented by a few items of information from other sources, as he omits to say exactly what occurred on reaching the timber, which, as he suspected, was alive with rebels.

Wilcox's division of four brigades was there, with Heth's division in support, and, having failed to break Griffin's well-posted line, moved to the right and furiously assaulted the Iron Brigade, which was just going into position. Taken unawares, and unable to withstand the shock, the Iron Brigade fell back pell-mell towards the river, and the heavy columns of the enemy were precipitated upon the Bucktail Brigade, a great portion of which also gave way and joined in the disorderly retreat. Many of these troops never stopped their flight until they had crossed the improvised bridge or floundered through the stream, although Stine states that the Iron Brigade re-

formed in rear of Captain Mink's battery (H, New York Light Artillery). The 150th did better, and made for itself an enviable name that evening. Although borne back from the woods by the sudden retrograde movement of the rest of Cutler's line, it did not share in the panic, but soon made a determined stand, inflicting severe loss upon the advancing enemy. Then, seeing his little force flanked on either hand, Major Jones gave the command to retreat. Sergeant Beers, of Company G, who had charge of the colors, brought them to the adjutant, saying that he was entirely "played out," and feared he could not take care of them.

To resume the adjutant's narrative: "There was no one near enough to give the colors to, and, as no time was to be lost, I took them rapidly to the rear, and had them when I crossed a wide gully which my horse had refused to jump on the way out, but which I had no trouble in clearing easily on the return. I may have given them to some one before Major Jones called for them, a moment later, as we approached Captain Mink's New York battery. The major planted the colors and formed the regiment, and at the same time told Captain Mink to get his battery to work, as we had come to stay. In an instant the regiment and battery were at work, and the rebel advance was checked. At least three or four times they charged, but we drove them back every time. It was hot work on a hot day, and some of the battery men gave out and were replaced by some of our men, or perhaps it was the ruts produced by the recoil of the guns that made the pieces so hard to handle that the cannoneers required assistance. With the exception of a single color-bearer of the Iron Brigade, carrying an Indiana, Wisconsin, or Michigan State flag (it was not the stars and stripes), and about fifteen or twenty men of the 121st Pennsylvania, no troops were there but the 150th. I looked anxiously for assistance in the shape of re-enforcements, but saw none except a battery of artillery, which took position on the other side of the river, some distance to our

right, and may have fired a round or two during the enemy's last charge. After the battle was over a large regiment—I think, heavy artillery—formed and lay down in our immediate rear. During the fight there was absolutely no one other than Mink's battery and ourselves, except those already mentioned, who took any part; not even a staff-officer of either division or brigade.

"Just after the heavy artillery regiment moved in behind us, General Cutler, with a part of his staff, rode up to us and complimented us highly, extending the compliment, however, to the brigade."

The conduct of the regiment on this occasion won Captain Mink's undying gratitude, and availed to settle a brigadier-general's stars upon Colonel Bragg's deserving shoulders.

A special order warmly commending the 150th was issued (Adjutant Wright thinks) by General Warren; at all events, such an order came down to the regiment from either corps or division head-quarters, and it is to be deplored that a copy of it, which was long treasured by Major Jones as one of his choicest possessions, was in some manner lost or destroyed.

The pleasant features of the engagement at the North Anna are marred by the recollection of the death of Sergeant Cyrus W. Baldwin, of Company G, a most intelligent, conscientious, and exemplary soldier, who was already "gazetted" for a lieutenancy; the mortal wounding of Private William Gray, of Company B, who died two days later; and the more or less serious disablement of many valuable men.

By the return of convalescents from the hospitals and the restoration to duty of the slightly wounded in the Wilderness battles the strength of the command had been increased from ninety-three, on May 14, to one hundred and forty-eight, on May 21. A week later the number had been reduced to one hundred and twenty-two, chiefly by the losses at the North Anna.

Major Jones relates that before advancing to the woods, expecting to bivouac where they were, the men busied themselves

with preparations for supper. His own man, "Rody," who has so frequently appeared in these pages, had boiled a pot of coffee, which he gathered up and carried with him when the order to advance was executed, thinking, as no enemy had yet appeared, that the troops would soon stop for the night, and the major would then have his coffee. When the enemy opened fire, one of the first bullets penetrated the coffee-pot in "Rody's" hands, and the fluid, which was still at the boiling-point, spurting against one of his legs, he was convinced that he was wounded, and, dropping the disabled vessel, struck madly for the rear. After fording the stream and discovering that not only was the enemy not in pursuit, but that his limbs were still in good, serviceable condition, he found his way back to the regiment. In narrating his experience to the major, he was honest enough to state that he had splashed through the river.

"But why did you wade when you might have gone across on the bridge?" asked the major.

"You see, the bridge was too darned full of officers and doctors," was his prompt and amusing reply.

On the 24th, Wright's corps crossed at Jericho and took position on the right of Warren. Hancock crossed the same morning, a little west of the Fredericksburg Railroad; while Burnside remained on the north side of the river, being confronted by Lee, in force, at Ox Ford. Lee's army formed an angle whose point rested on the stream opposite Burnside, with its sides sloping south-east and south-west. Hancock, with his own corps and Potter's division of the Ninth, faced the enemy's south-eastern line; while Wright and Warren, with Crittenden's division of the Ninth Corps added, faced the line extending to the south-west. This left Burnside, with a single division, north of the stream.

This was probably the most ticklish position ever occupied by the Army of the Potomac, and the wonder is that Lee—seeing that his antagonist could not strengthen either flank

without entailing on the re-enforcing column a march of many miles, in which the river would have to be twice crossed—did not attack one or the other wing and sweep it from the field. General Grant, recognizing the perilous situation of his forces, and the doubtful issue of any attack which he might order, after straddling the North Anna for two days like a pair of tongs, concluded to withdraw to the north side, and again endeavor to interpose his army between Richmond and Lee by a rapid movement by the left flank. Beginning with the extreme right, he retired the corps of Warren and Wright, masking the withdrawal by a brilliant diversion at that end of the line by Wilson's division of cavalry, which gave the rebel commander the impression that a serious effort was about to be made to turn his left.

This was on the 26th. On that day, Sergeant Henry Laut and Privates John Houseman, Frank H. Elvidge, and Israel H. Thomas, of Company A, together with others of the regiment who had been captured at Gettysburg and had passed a long term of imprisonment on Bell Island, returned to the command, having come through by way of Fredericksburg as part of a provisional battalion composed of exchanged prisoners, convalescents, and re-enlisted veterans.

It is whispered as a part of the secret history of the campaign of 1864, by officers who were on Meade's staff or at his head-quarters, that General Grant was solely responsible for the movement on the North Anna, which might easily have resulted in disaster to the national arms. The story goes that the general, in an interview with Meade soon after the events of Spottsylvania, expressed dissatisfaction at the failure of his troops to break Lee's lines, and made invidious comparisons between the Eastern army and his Western command, which latter seldom failed to execute his plans successfully in spite of every obstacle. Meade, piqued by his superior's words and manner, replied, "Well, general, in the next movement I would like you to take the command and control the disposition and

assaults of the troops." General Grant took him at his word, and during the first operations at the North Anna, Meade and his staff enjoyed a holiday, broken on the second day by an urgent request from Grant to his subordinate to resume his usual functions. The tale is given for what it is worth, with the single comment that it is based on the statements of officers still living, who were a part of Meade's staff at the time, and whose word in other matters is unquestioned.

Frank H. Elvidge, of Company A, had the commendable habit of noting in a pocket diary, from day to day, the movements of the regiment, and occasionally his individual views of things. On May 26 he wrote, "Reached our regiment after a very fatiguing march. Found seven men in the company, with a corporal in command. Now there are ten, with Laut in charge. Started out just after dark and marched until about half-past two o'clock, when we reached Hanover Junction. Drew rations for three days. It is very hard marching, being so muddy. *Army in good spirits and everything going on right.*

"*May 27.*—Pulled out at daybreak. Recrossed the North Anna (going south) and came around the 'rebs' right flank, making a very large circuit. The Sixth Corps started yesterday. Foraging plenty, but it has been a very hard march, with no rest. Made about twenty-seven miles. The rebels have fallen back from Hanover Junction.

"*May 28.*—Crossed the Pamunkey River about noon to-day (Saturday) and entered the 'Peninsula.' Marched a few miles from the river, threw up rifle-pits, and put up for the rest of the day.

"*May 29.*—Moved out about a mile and a half, and took up another position. Grant is moving on slowly, intrenching as he goes. Ran out of rations altogether, and had to go back a mile and a half for beef, which is all we got. Our regiment and the 142d went out on picket. Heavy firing all along the line. All of Lee's army is in front of us now. Within about sixteen miles of Richmond.

"May 30.—Relieved by the First Division, Ninth Corps, and moved our line out about a mile. The rebels, in heavy force, charged the works of the Pennsylvania Reserve, but were cut up terribly and ran back a mile and a half. The artillery did the worst work, scattering them in every direction. We were kept moving up and down the road half a dozen times, when we took position and threw up intrenchments. Drew three days' rations. Grantz came back yesterday, making eleven men (in Company A)."

The engagement referred to as having taken place on the 30th was that of Bethesda Church, being a part of the battle of Totopotomoy, in which Hancock's and Warren's troops were chiefly concerned. Hancock struck the enemy at Totopotomoy Creek, and Warren, who was on the Shady Grove Church road, near Huntley Corners, was attacked by Early, with the result that one brigade of the Pennsylvania Reserve was temporarily thrown into confusion. To relieve the pressure on Warren, Hancock assaulted and carried the rebel breastworks, and, Warren pushing forward at the same time, Early was driven back a mile or more with heavy loss.

This was the last fight in which the Pennsylvania Reserve participated, its term of enlistment expiring that day. On the following day the division started for home. Without special orders or previous understanding, the other troops of the corps fell into line and presented arms as these veterans of many campaigns, full of scars and honors, marched past; and as the notes of "Home Again," from the band of the Reserve, rang in their ears, the cheeks of hundreds of veterans who remained were moistened by tears of which they had no reason to be ashamed.

On the 31st, Elvidge pencilled in his diary, "One rebel major-general and one colonel commanding brigade were killed. Buried all the dead,—that is, *the pieces*, for they were all blown to atoms by canister."

## CHAPTER XXII.

## FROM COLD HARBOR TO PETERSBURG.

On the 30th and 31st of May, Grant's army extended from the Shady Grove Church road, on which Warren's left rested, about three miles south of Totopotomoy Creek, in the direction of Hanover Court-House, to a point about six miles south-east of that place. Wright's corps occupied the extreme right, with Hancock next, and Burnside reaching to Warren's right. Sheridan guarded the Union left with two divisions of cavalry, and Wilson's cavalry division hovered about the right flank.

On the 31st, Sheridan took and held Cold Harbor, Wright's corps, which had been withdrawn by way of the rear of the army, joining him on the 1st of June, making the position secure. In the afternoon, Smith's corps (the Eighteenth), of Butler's command, arrived from White House and took position on the right of the Sixth (Wright's). On the same day, Lee, having become aware of the withdrawal of the Sixth Corps, began at an early hour to make new dispositions, and Anderson's command was discovered skirting the front of Warren, who was ordered to attack. Warren's troops advanced,—Elvidge says "about half a mile,"—but, with the exception of considerable artillery firing on both sides, there was no serious engagement. The batteries knew little rest all day, and the enemy's shells did a good deal of damage. Sergeants Henry B. Evans and J. H. Clevestine, of Company F, were both mortally wounded, the former dying two days later (June 3,—Elvidge says June 2) and the latter on the 12th of the month. Others who were wounded were Sergeant Charles T.

Street, of F, and Private James Knittle, of D, the latter losing a leg.

The Sixth and Eighteenth Corps advanced to the assault of the lines in their front, at Cold Harbor, about an hour before sunset, and captured and held the first line of the enemy's rifle-pits. "While this was going on," says General Grant, "the enemy charged Warren three separate times with vigor, but was repulsed each time with loss. . . . There was also an attack upon Hancock's and Burnside's corps at the same time, but it was feeble, and probably only intended to relieve Anderson, who was being pressed by Wright and Smith."

Elvidge makes no mention in his diary of the charges on Warren's front, but says, "Under cover of the night, advanced the line again about three hundred yards. Busy all night, working at the breastworks. Exact loss in the brigade not known."

On the 2d, Hancock's corps moved to the left of Wright, and Warren's line was extended to the left to connect with Smith. This change probably did not affect the position of the 150th, as, after stating that "heavy fighting still continues, carried on mostly by artillery, although we are troubled a great deal by rebel sharp-shooters," Elvidge closes his notes for the day by saying, "Rained all night. Strengthened our works."

Early on the following morning the Second, Sixth, and Eighteenth Corps moved against the enemy, gaining his outer defenses in places, in others meeting with a disastrous rebuff, though the end of the principal action, which lasted perhaps two hours, saw the Union lines considerably advanced. As Lee's army had the advantage of position, and was for the most part sheltered by woods and abundant rifle-pits, its losses were vastly lighter than those suffered by Grant's forces, which, in the brief space named, aggregated many thousands. Warren's and Burnside's corps, forming the right of the line, were at no time seriously engaged, though they also pressed forward some distance and protected themselves by breastworks.

General Grant, with his characteristic frankness, admits that this assault was without sufficient compensation, but shrewdly adds that "the enemy was not cheered by the occurrence sufficiently to induce him to take the offensive."

On the same day the 4th Delaware was added to Bragg's brigade, making six regiments, the others being the 121st, 142d, 143d, 149th, and 150th Pennsylvania.

Skirmishing and heavy artillery firing continued throughout the day and evening, but the positions of the two armies remained unchanged.

A movement to and across the James River having been decided upon, new dispositions of some of the corps were made on the 4th and 5th, Burnside going into line between Warren and Smith, and Hancock extending his left to the Chickahominy. At eleven o'clock on the night of the 5th, Warren withdrew and started for Cold Harbor, arriving there on the morning of the 6th, and resting that day. Bragg's command was transferred to the First Division, Fifth Corps, becoming the First Brigade, and the 187th Pennsylvania, a large new regiment, was substituted for the 4th Delaware. This brigade was thenceforth known as the "Keystone," Colonel Joshua L. Chamberlain, of the 20th Maine, succeeding Bragg in the command.

On the 7th the brigade was located about a mile from the Chickahominy and about five miles from Bottom's Bridge, and for the next two days the 150th performed picket duty along the sluggish stream. On the opposite bank was the 24th Georgia, between whose men and the Bucktails pleasant relations had existed on the Rappahannock, below Fredericksburg, in the early spring. While thus engaged, some of the members of the country companies, who had had experience in the lumber camps of North-western Pennsylvania, discovered a bee-tree, and resolved to possess themselves of the honey. Axes were promptly brought into play, but their resounding strokes soon created a hubbub on the rebel side of the stream,

and several officers appeared, who called out to the choppers to desist or they would be fired upon. An explanation was offered, but the gray-coats were suspicious and declined to accept it. The cutting ceased for a time, but the temptation to secure the honey was strong, and by a crafty application of the axe at intervals, one or two strokes at a time, the tree was finally brought to the ground. The entire line shared in the spoils, and army bread was never eaten with a better relish than during those two days on the Chickahominy.

On the night of the 12th, Warren's corps crossed the stream on a pontoon bridge, at Long Bridge, which latter, as well as all the other bridges, had been burnt by the rebels. The pickets, including a detail from the 150th, had been left on the line, and, after the withdrawal of the army, were in imminent danger of capture. They succeeded, however, in getting out of the swamp safely, and those belonging to the 150th rejoined the regiment about four o'clock on the morning of the 13th, near Dispatch Station. Here a halt was made until dusk, when the march was resumed and continued until two A.M. of the 14th. At daylight the troops were again in motion, and, with the exception of a brief rest at Charles City Cross Roads, kept plodding along by way of Charles City Court-House until the James River was reached. Here a pontoon bridge had been laid, and Hancock's corps was already crossing, using boats as well as the bridge.

On June 16, Warren's corps was carried over in transports from Windmill Point to Guiney's Landing, and made a rapid march towards Petersburg, halting about nine P.M. at Prince George Court-House long enough to make coffee. Then a fresh start was made, and before midnight the entire corps was at the front, ready to support the operations already begun by Smith and Hancock. A number of intrenched lines and redans had been carried by the Eighteenth and Second Corps, with considerable loss on both sides; but the enemy quickly estab-

lished himself in fresh works and in strongholds which had long been prepared for the defence of Petersburg.

In the general advance of the Second, Ninth, and Fifth Corps, on the morning of June 18, the Fifth was on the left, and had the greatest distance to traverse,—probably not less than a mile and a half. The ground was very irregular, being broken by ravines and by the Norfolk Railroad cut, which made the movement very laborious, and necessitated some readjusting of the lines before the final dash upon the enemy's works. Griffin's division, of which the 150th was a part, formed for the assault under cover of a slight elevation about three hundred yards from the rebel forts, and elaborate instructions were given to brigade and regimental commanders as to the manner of their advance and the objective point of each. To the 150th naturally fell the duty of leading the way as skirmishers for the brigade, and Major Jones was ordered at a given signal—the firing of a certain battery—to move rapidly across the first ravine in front to the brow of a rising ground beyond, from which—if the supporting lines followed closely and in good order—he was to advance precipitately across a second ravine and press on until he struck the rebel works. These were to be carried, if possible; or, if that could not be accomplished, the nearest elevation was to be held and fortified. At the signal,—which was given about four P.M.,—Major Jones's command sprang nimbly through the hollow to the summit of the little hill, and seeing the long line of the 187th Pennsylvania following in admirable array, with the other supports close upon their heels, dashed swiftly into the second ravine and up its farther slope to the very base of the formidable earthwork which was subsequently blown up by Burnside's famous mine. During this time the enemy was not idle. The forts and connecting intrenchments were strongly manned, and from every point dominating the scene of the assault came shot and shell and rattling grape and canister, coupled with a murderous fire of

musketry, against which no troops could make an effective stand. While the 150th escaped with comparatively little loss in passing the last ravine, owing to its formation as skirmishers, no sooner had the 187th and the succeeding line of smaller regiments gained the top of the rising ground, already mentioned, than they began to melt away under the merciless storm of iron and lead. Under the superb leadership of Colonel Chamberlain, who had won the confidence and affection of the brigade, they pressed on almost to the enemy's works; but at this critical point the colonel was dangerously wounded, and, exposed to an enfilading as well as direct fire, which strewed the ground with scores of dead or disabled officers and men at every moment, they were forced to retire to the protection of the little ridge which they had just surmounted. It was a gallant effort, and, although unavailing, commanded the admiration of all who witnessed it. For his part in the action, Colonel Chamberlain was promoted on the field, by General Grant, to a brigadier-generalship, and later won the rank of major-general chiefly through the work of this sanguinary day. In mentioning the colonel's promotion, Bates, in his "History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers," adds, "The troops received the warmest commendation for their valor from General Griffin."

General Humphreys, in his book, "The Virginia Campaign of '64 and '65," says, "General Warren's assault was well made, some of Griffin's men being killed within twenty feet of the enemy's works, but it was no more successful than the others. His losses were very severe. Among the desperately wounded was Colonel Chamberlain, of the 20th Maine, who led his brigade under a destructive fire."

General Chamberlain, in an interview with a newspaper reporter, the details of which were published in the *New York World* of January 15, 1893, after mentioning the consolidation of the First and Fifth Army Corps in the spring of 1864, said of

his own command, "It consisted of Doubleday's division of veterans (Roy Stone's and Rowley's old brigades), to which was added a fine new regiment, the 187th Pennsylvania, and these made up a brigade. I was called to command it while I held the rank of colonel in another brigade. *It was with this magnificent command that I made the now famous charge at Petersburg, June 18, 1864.*

"I had already carried an advanced position across the Norfolk Railroad, which brought me close upon the enemy's main works, and secured myself by bringing up four batteries of artillery, when an order came to charge the main lines of Petersburg with my command. Knowing well the fruitless slaughter this would involve, I boldly sent back a written protest, but added that I would willingly make the attack if supported by the whole army, as would be necessary in order to carry the city by assault.

"For a time it looked as if my suggestions would be ignored, but I was re-enforced, and after the fight it was demonstrated that my refusal to obey the orders had really been the means of winning the victory. It was for this action that General Grant promoted me from colonel to brigadier-general. General Grant afterwards told me that he had never made a promotion on the field of battle before."

Of the esteem in which the 150th was held by General Chamberlain some idea may be formed from a letter written by him October 11, 1867, addressed to Captain A. J. Rorer, of Company B, in which he says, "I remember your regiment and its heroic and gallant service on that terrible day of June, and every man of it is dear to me."

Well might the general speak thus feelingly of the little 150th, as it was perhaps the only regiment in the entire division that did not cede a foot of ground which it had won that day. Planted near the base of the huge rebel fort, the men lay in comparative security from the fire of its occupants, the muzzles

of whose cannon could not be sufficiently depressed to bear upon them; while every enterprising soldier of the garrison who showed his head and musket above the parapet became the target of their unerring rifles. It was a hot place, however, for the Union guns at various points were trained upon the fort, while an incessant flight of bullets from the infantry lines upon the ridge in their rear was almost as full of menace to the Buck-tail skirmishers as to the enemy; so that the weary command waited with impatience for the coming of night, which promised at least partial relief from the double peril to which it was exposed. At midnight an officer from the 83d Pennsylvania, who had crept out to ascertain the exact location of the 150th, reported to the major that his regiment (the 83d) had been detailed for picket duty, to relieve the skirmishers, and he would bring it out as promptly as the difficulties of the situation would permit. About three o'clock on the morning of the 19th the pickets arrived and, man by man, moved noiselessly into the little shelters already found or excavated by their predecessors. Day was dawning when the 150th was finally permitted to retire. To withdraw without loss was no easy matter, in the face of a vigilant foe; but by creeping back to the ravine, feet foremost, and running rapidly to the right, the little band soon gained a narrow wood road which partially screened it, enabling it to pass without serious accident within the lines of the corps.

The position to which the regiment was assigned was a short distance in rear of the first line of battle, where it was much exposed to the fire of rebel sharp-shooters, with no opportunity of replying. After several of his men had been killed or dangerously wounded, Major Jones sent a request to Colonel Tilden, of the 16th Maine, who had been assigned to the command of the brigade after Colonel Chamberlain was disabled, to be allowed to move a short distance to a more protected spot, as the regiment was not actively engaged. The privilege was

refused with a boorish exhibition of courtesy for which the officer's condition was no excuse.

On the 18th of June the mean strength of the regiment, which a week before was quoted at one hundred and sixty-eight, had fallen to one hundred and ten,—an appreciable reduction in so small a body of men.

The following are the names of those killed or mortally wounded on the 18th and 19th:

Sergeant James W. Slocum, Company H, killed June 18.

Corporal Robert Sloan, Company E, killed June 18.

Private Joseph Guinen, Company H, mortally wounded June 18; died June 20.

Sergeant Henry Wendler, Company E, mortally wounded June 19; died July 3.

Of the many wounded on the same dates, the names of only a few have been ascertained. These are:

Private Stephen P. Harmer, Company A.

Lieutenant John H. Harter, Company D.

Corporal Joseph Hippert, Company F.

Sergeant Charles S. Reisinger,\* Company H.

Corporal Leverett Lowe, Company H.

Private Washington McMillen, Company H.

Lists of the killed or mortally wounded—so far as ascertainable—in the various engagements beginning with the Wilderness, May 5, have been given in their proper places. In the list which follows are included the names of those who are known to have been wounded, captured, or missing, from May 5 to June 8. The greater number of casualties occurred in the Wilderness, at Laurel Hill, and at Spottsylvania, but the date is in most cases uncertain, and is given only when well authenticated:

*Company A.*

Sergeant Albert Meley, May 5; foot.

Corporal George A. Dixon, May 12; arm.

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\* Sergeant Reisinger mourned the loss of a foot.

Corporal Thomas McCombs, May 10; foot.  
 Private Isaiah B. Dewees, May 10.  
 Private Edwin G. Harmer, May 10; foot.  
 Private William S. Moore, May 12; head.  
 Private Jacob Myers, May 5; foot.  
 Private Richard L. Sharpless, May 5; hand.  
 Private William F. Williams, May 10.

*Captured or Missing.*

Private Nathan Palmer, May 5.  
 Private John Zippler, May 5.

*Company B.*

Sergeant James H. Moore, May 8.  
 Corporal William Baker.  
 Corporal William H. Craig.  
 Corporal John Dedier.  
 Corporal Richard Dunckley.  
 Private Patrick Mulhatton.  
 (None missing.)

*Company C.*

Sergeant Hoover J. Shannon.  
 Corporal John W. Amey.  
 Corporal Samuel Gilmore.  
 Corporal Peter Snyder.  
 Private Robert Brooks.  
 Private Amos Chipman.  
 Private Andrew Consolo.  
 Private Hiram Consolo.  
 Private James O. Looker.  
 Private Samuel H. Roberts.  
 Private James F. Shellito.  
 Private Abraham Stainbrook.  
 Private Jesse D. Taylor.  
 Private Clinton Waid.  
 Private Alexander P. Walters.

*Captured or Missing.*

Corporal Rodney Conner.  
 Corporal William W. Seely.  
 Private William G. Barr (also wounded).

Private Isaiah Clark.  
Private Abijah R. Fross.  
Private Edgar Saeger.  
Private Robert Shellito.

*Company D.*

First Lieutenant John H. Harter, May 10.  
Sergeant Samuel H. Himmelwright.  
Corporal Albert Foster.  
Private James A. Bell.  
Private Adam Deal.  
Private John Donachy.  
Private William Eberhart.  
Private Jacob Fillman.  
Private Simon E. Foust.  
Private James Knittle.  
Private Simon Malehorn.  
Private Jacob Prutzman.  
Private Joel Reedy.  
Private William Stitzer.  
(None missing.)

*Company E.*

Sergeant Joseph Walden, May 24.  
Corporal Frank B. Jaggard.  
Private Lorenzo Keech.  
Private William J. Vandegrift.

*Captured or Missing.*

Corporal Frederick Leiser.  
Corporal Stephen Lewis.  
Private John O'Harra, killed on "dead line," Ander-  
sonville, August 23, 1864.  
Private Henry Schaeffer.

*Company F.*

Sergeant William R. Ramsey, May 6; lost leg.  
Corporal John D. Harris.  
Private Joseph P. Bailey.  
Private John K. Himes.  
Private Joseph Hippert.

Private Garrett C. Kean.  
Private Samuel L. Vanderslice.  
Private George T. Wilson.

*Captured or Missing.*

Private Edward Steck.  
Private James Stevenson.

*Company G.*

Private Putnam Barber.  
Private Albert L. Lamphear.  
Private George Loomis.  
Private Samuel L. Provin.

*Captured or Missing.*

Corporal Henry M. Kinney. Wilderness.  
Private William P. Carner. Wilderness.  
Private John Mead.

*Company H.*

Sergeant James T. Reed.  
Corporal William Adams. Wilderness.  
Corporal Charles Flick. Spottsylvania.  
Corporal Samuel G. Robbins. Wilderness.  
Private Lafayette Abbott. Wilderness.  
Private Lorenzo Abbott. Wilderness.  
Private Jeremiah Clark. Spottsylvania.  
Private John W. Clark. Wilderness.  
Private Samuel Cooper.  
Private Joseph Curty.  
Private Lafayette Derby. Wilderness.  
Private Joseph Haas. Wilderness.  
Private William C. Koonce. Wilderness.  
Private William McKay. Wilderness.  
Private Andrew McDermott. Spottsylvania.  
Private Alonzo Markley. Wilderness.  
Private Robert Robb. Laurel Hill.  
Private Samuel Smith. Laurel Hill.  
Private Joseph Smock. Spottsylvania.  
Private Asa Swift. Wilderness.  
Private Thomas J. Wilder. Spottsylvania.

*Captured or Missing.*

Corporal Samuel G. Robbins, wounded May 6.  
Private Dennis Baily. Wilderness, May 5.  
Private Stephen Maryatt. Wilderness, May 5.  
Private Pell T. Teed. Spottsylvania, May 12.

*Company I.*

Sergeant Gilbert Gordon.  
Corporal Peter Fink.  
Private Esquire Campbell.  
Private Moses Cook.  
Private William S. Coyle.  
Private Almond Delamater. Wilderness.  
Private Morris M. Freeman.  
Private William H. Hill.  
Private Peter S. Kepler.  
Private Phares D. Kepler.  
Private John Koehler.  
Private H. Banning Odell.  
Private Henry V. Proctor.  
Private Jesse M. Smith.

*Captured or Missing.*

Private Daniel Farrington.

Total wounded, 95.  
Total captured or missing, 23.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

## FORT SEDGWICK (OR "HELL")—MAKING CONVERTS—WELDON RAILROAD.

BETWEEN eight and nine o'clock on the evening of June 20, Warren's troops were relieved by Burnside's corps, a colored division taking the place of Griffin's, which latter marched to corps head-quarters and bivouacked. On the morning of the 21st the division moved towards the left, and, as Elvidge somewhat disapprovingly remarks, "After fooling around all day, landed within about a mile from where it started." After dark an advance was made, the 150th occupying its usual position as skirmishers, and pushing through a wood filled with under-growth, with here and there a patch of swamp to add to the unpleasantness of the movement. Major Jones, with the rough experience of June 18 still fresh in his mind, speaks of it as the "ugliest duty performed for some time." In his front, disputing the way, was a rebel line, the flash of whose muskets could be seen at every discharge, and the sound of whose bullets, cutting through the magnolia bushes, was multiplied a hundredfold. At last his line rested at the point which had previously been agreed upon,—a certain clump of bushes,—where in a very short time rose the commanding earthwork named "Sedgwick," in honor of the fallen general, but which was speedily dubbed "Fort Hell" by the enemy, and has ever since retained that appellation. The night was spent in constructing a strong line parallel with the Petersburg and Jerusalem road.

Nothing of any great importance occurred to the 150th, now, for two or three weeks. A few brief extracts from Elvidge's lively diary, however, may prove interesting.

*“June 25.*—Craig, of Company B, has got back from wounded furlough. Our fellows and the rebs trading one minute and fighting the next.

*“June 26.*—No firing along our front, as the pickets have made a bargain not to fire until one side or the other advances.

*“July 3.*—Trading going on briskly. Fifteen rebs came into our lines yesterday.

*“July 4.*—Lieutenant Kilgore returned to the regiment (he had been absent for many months on recruiting service).

*“July 6.*—The Third Division, Sixth Corps, marched to City Point, on the way—it is supposed—to Maryland, to meet the Johnnies.

*“July 10.*—It is reported that both Longstreet and Ewell, with Lee in command [an error, so far as Longstreet and Lee are concerned], are in Pennsylvania, and that Lew Wallace has met and repulsed them [also a mistake]. The raid is made for provision, and with a view to draw Grant from here. Rebs put a tax on all the towns passed through by them. Secretary Chase has resigned. Lincoln again put up for President.

*“July 11.*—The latest news informs us that Lew Wallace has been obliged to retreat towards Baltimore, with the rebs in full pursuit. General Tyler a prisoner. The raid seems to be of far greater importance than was at first attached to it.

“Good news! The rebel privateer ‘Alabama’ was sunk off the French coast by the ‘Kearsarge,’ commanded by Captain Winslow.”

These extracts are useful as giving some account of a movement, under General Early, which created a violent commotion in the North and for a few days exposed the national capital to serious danger of capture. They also furnish an opportunity of recalling to mind the absent company of the 150th,—Company K,—which continued to serve as the President’s body-guard, but which, on Early’s approach, helped to man the outlying fortifications of Washington, and had on that occasion its only genuine

whiff of burnt powder. This is stated with no intention of casting reproach upon Company K, which did only what a thousand other companies would have been glad to do, had the President's favor alighted in the same manner upon them.

To resume the extracts:

*July 14.*—Arrangements were made that two Florida brigades should come over and give themselves up. Everything being perfect on our side, the signals agreed upon were given; but the plan was found out and frustrated by the rebel officers, and, after waiting several hours in vain, we gave the thing up as a bad job.

*July 15.*—Although the two brigades did not get in last night, about eight hundred from different regiments came in along the line of our brigade. Their army seems to be very much demoralized, the men making a break at every opportunity."

Elvidge's statement needs a little pruning. But one brigade from Florida was connected with the Army of Northern Virginia, consisting of the 2d, 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th Regiments, commanded by Brigadier-General Joseph Finegan. The number of those who came in on the night of the 14th was doubtless considerably below eight hundred, though quite large enough to seriously reduce the strength of the brigade.

Much of the missionary work expended upon Finegan's command was performed by a few men of the 150th, prominent among whom were Private Henry K. Lukens and Corporal Cornelius Slack, of Company E. Both of these were full of the spirit of adventure, and perhaps as innocent of fear as it is possible for men to be. In other respects they differed widely. Lukens was quiet and self-contained, with rigid ideas of duty, and penetrated by a profound patriotism which urged him to deeds beyond the ordinary requirements of the service. Combining good judgment with earnestness and sincerity of manner, he was well fitted to favorably impress those upon whom

his influence was brought to bear. Slack, on the other hand, was of a rollicking disposition,—one of the happy-go-lucky kind, who take nothing seriously, and view life as a sort of variety entertainment, where each performer propounds his conundrum and cracks his joke. As may be imagined, he was full of wit, and charged to the muzzle with amusing anecdotes, which made him a welcome comer in any gathering of his fellows. Shrewdness he had also in an extraordinary degree, and this and his inexhaustible good-humor had helped him out of many a tight place. The two men were admirably qualified to supplement each other's efforts in the work of gaining converts from the enemy, which they now undertook.

Finegan's Floridians manned the pits opposite the front of Tilden's (late Stone's) brigade, and—as stated by Elvidge—the pickets, by common consent, used no powder and ball, except when an advance was made by one side or the other. Under this favorable condition of affairs it was not long before trading became an absorbing passion along the line. The chief articles of barter on the Union side were coffee, sugar, and salt, for which the rebels eagerly exchanged their abundant supply of tobacco; and newspapers also readily found their way from one line to the other. With the rebels the illustrated weeklies, such as *Harper's* and *Frank Leslie's*, were in great demand, and ruled high in the price-list.

In the course of their mercantile transactions, Lukens, Slack, and others finally went into the enemy's pits, on the assurance that they would not be molested, and were soon on a most friendly footing with their Southern neighbors. The venture was repeated many times without a single unpleasant incident, and they were not long in discovering that, if the Florida troops ever had any heart in the war, they were now beginning to be very sick of it. Many of them expressed themselves frankly to that effect. Here was an opportunity not to be lost. Lukens calmly suggested that they had better come over.

They replied that if they did so they feared they would be forced into the Union ranks, it being currently reported in Lee's army that such was the intention of the Federal government.

Major Jones was promptly informed of these visits to the rebel pits, and of the state of feeling existing there. He at once reported the facts to the next higher authorities, and they were not long in reaching the ears of General Warren, commanding the corps. The general sent for Lukens, and, after questioning him thoroughly, gave him a "roving commission," with full authority to pass through the lines when and where he pleased. He was also supplied with numerous copies of a proclamation issued by the President, granting amnesty to all persons in armed rebellion who should give themselves up. In subsequent visits to the rebel line he distributed these freely, and they speedily began to produce their effect. One evening he brought in five deserters with their arms, another evening four, and so on until there were between twenty and thirty to his credit. On his ninth and last expedition some of the rebels said to him,—

"You won't go back to your lines."

"Why not?" he asked.

"Because we're going to send you to Richmond."

"To Richmond? You wouldn't go back on a fellow like that?"

"Yes, sir! You don't return to your lines!"

Just then a sergeant, with whom his negotiations had been chiefly carried on, stepped up, exclaiming, "What's that?"

"These men say they are going to send me to Richmond."

"I reckon not! This man has traded fair with us, and has done the square thing right through, and back to his own lines he goes, and no nonsense about it!"

Detailing two men to accompany him, the sergeant sent him back without further ado.

Other missionaries had been at work on the same portion of the line, and that night it was agreed that on the following evening, at a given signal, the whole brigade, or as much of it as could be won over, should make a "rush for freedom" in a body. The signal was to be two rockets from the fort next to the left of the position of the 150th, and instructions were passed along the Fifth Corps lines not to fire when the rush came. At the same time, for fear of possible treachery, the troops were to stand to arms, ready to repel any attack that might be undertaken under cover of this promised desertion.

As mentioned by Elvige, the plan was discovered in time to be frustrated, though an important fraction of the brigade succeeded in reaching the Union lines, singly and in squads. Lukens, who was subsequently promoted to be first sergeant of his company, and before final muster-out was commissioned captain, fully deserves the government medal of honor for his part in this dangerous work, as well as for other distinguished services. During his army career he captured, in various actions, no less than eighteen of the enemy, among them one or two commissioned officers.

Fatigue duty on Fort Tilden and the sunken roads leading to it occupied the regiment during the latter half of July. The fort was practically completed on the 21st, and on the 23d the subway leading into it received the finishing touches. On the 29th, in the early evening, six thirty-two-pounders, a four-gun battery of brass Napoleons, and a battery of rifled Parrots were run into the fort, forming an armament of fourteen pieces.

On the 30th of July the famous mine excavated by the 48th Pennsylvania, under the superintendence of Lieutenant-Colonel Pleasants, was sprung, and an effort made by Burnside's corps, assisted by other troops, to carry the rebel works and capture Petersburg. Great expectations had been based upon this undertaking, but, from causes which it would be useless to detail, none of them were realized. The movement, in which General

Burnside was most prominent, proved an utter failure, and the loss of life was sickening. In this affair the 150th had no part, except as spectators of the furious cannonade which preceded the charge.

On the 10th of August an indiscretion on the part of a staff-officer of the brigade occasioned a sudden fire of rebel guns upon the works occupied by the regiment, by which Captain John H. Harter, of Company D, sustained painful injuries, and Privates James Brown and Isaiah Dewees, of Company A, were also wounded, the former severely. The officer referred to, in showing some visiting friends the fort, was thoughtless enough to remove the "coffee bags" from the embrasures in the front, to enable them to see what a fine range the batteries had of the rebel works. Instantly the nearest rebel batteries, anticipating the supposed intentions of the "Yankees," let loose a storm of iron, with the unfortunate result mentioned.

On the 15th the Second Division of the Ninth Corps replaced the troops of Griffin, and the latter marched back into the woods and encamped at division head-quarters, preparatory to the first movement against the Weldon Railroad. On the 18th the Fifth Corps was called up at two o'clock in the morning, and marched at four, the 150th being deployed as skirmishers as soon as the cavalry outposts were passed. The enemy's pickets were soon encountered and driven beyond the railroad, the regiment capturing a large number of the men at the reserve posts, when these were reached.

Adjutant Wright, speaking of the occurrences of the day, says, "From the time the rebel picket reserve was routed until we had the Weldon road and telegraph line disabled, we had nothing but fun. After some delay at the railroad we advanced far enough beyond to give timely warning of the approach of a hostile body strong enough to retake the road. Several times the rebels tried it, but were driven back, even before our troops were up in force. . . . When we first took the Weldon Railroad

there were no other troops with us. We tore up a few rails and had the telegraph wires bent as near the ground as the weight of a man could bring them, when a company of cavalry came along and cut the wires with their sabres."

While the 150th and the rest of Tilden's brigade got along so satisfactorily, Ayres's and Crawford's divisions, operating about a mile farther up the railroad, were attacked by two brigades of Heth's division, which, penetrating the thick underbrush, struck Dushane's Maryland brigade unexpectedly and utterly routed it. Ayres quickly drew back his line to avoid being doubled up by the flank, and then, pressing forward rapidly, beat back the attacking force in confusion.

On the morning of the 19th, General Mahone, advancing through the thick woods, with whose topography he was entirely familiar, easily broke through Bragg's (Iron Brigade) skirmish line, and, swinging to the right, swept down Crawford's line, gathering in most of his skirmishers and a great part of two or three of his regiments. The rest of his division, and also a portion of Ayres's command, were compelled to fall back some distance, when they were re-formed by General Warren and, after checking the enemy's victorious movement, pushed to the front again, retaking the ground which had been lost. While things were at sixes and sevens in consequence of Mahone's skilful manœuvre, Tilden's brigade of Pennsylvanians was withdrawn from the advanced position which it had held during the night, and hurried to the right to assist in turning defeat into victory. Adjutant Wright says of the operations of the 150th, "Our right flank was beaten, and the regiment was taken from the left front to resist the advance of the so far victorious enemy on the right. Major Jones cannot forget General Griffin's repeated appeals to us to stand, recounting how 'a line of Pennsylvanians was just so placed at Malvern Hill, without a spadeful of earth in front of them, and did their work splendidly,'—*just as we did when the rebels came*. Their

victorious charge of but a short time previous captured the two regiments of the re-enlisted Pennsylvania Reserve almost to a man,—Wolf, Hartshorn, Weidler, etc. After the repulse the belated divisions of the Ninth Corps got there, and we were relieved. The next day we had the satisfaction of having the enemy undertake the recapture of the Weldon Railroad, when, for the first time in my experience, we had the protection of good breastworks. It is needless to say they were disastrously defeated."

This last repulse of the enemy, to which the adjutant refers, occurred on the 21st, not on the 20th. Wilcox's and White's divisions of the Ninth Corps, although tardy in appearing on the 19th, came into play after the enemy's successful progress had been stayed, and, attacking with spirit, drove Mahone's exulting troops back to their intrenchments in great disorder.

On the 20th, General Warren selected and fortified a line a mile or more in rear of the previous day's battle-ground, in a more open country, and here he was assaulted on the morning of the 21st by a formidable force under command of General A. P. Hill. The latter's corps was assisted by Mahone's and Hoke's divisions, and many batteries participated in the attack, but every attempt to take or turn the works proved ineffectual. The 150th, with the other regiments of the brigade, occupied an advantageous position on the extreme left, and somewhat to the rear of the main line, screened by trees from the observation of the enemy. Mahone's troops, in their advance, thinking they were turning the Union left, unexpectedly stumbled upon the defences manned by Tilden's brigade, and received a rude awakening. A galling fire from the 150th and the other Pennsylvania regiments arrested their progress and seemed to paralyze them, while a flank fire from the works on the right and farther to the front completed their demoralization. It was here that some hundreds of Hagood's rebel command were taken prisoners and several battle-flags captured.

After nightfall Tilden's brigade moved farther to the left and built breastworks.

In order to complete the destruction of the Weldon Railroad, and increase Lee's difficulties in obtaining supplies for his army by that route, Hancock's corps and Gregg's cavalry were sent farther south on the 22d, and tore up the track for a distance of three miles beyond Ream's Station. On the 25th these troops were attacked by Hill's corps, assisted by Anderson's brigade, of Longstreet's command, and Hampton's cavalry, and a severe battle ensued, in which the enemy had decidedly the advantage, taking nearly two thousand prisoners, together with nine guns and several stands of colors. Hancock's forces were withdrawn at dark, as the further destruction of the road at that time was out of the question; but Warren kept his hold at the Globe Tavern, intrenched thoroughly, and the enemy never regained control of the road.

On the 6th of August the mean strength of the regiment, as reported by Hospital Steward Kieffer, was one hundred and sixty-four. On the 27th of the same month it had fallen to one hundred and twenty-eight. In the affair at the Weldon Railroad the regiment lost but one killed,—Corporal Cornelius Slack, of Company E, whose part in the effort to win over the Florida brigade has been set forth in this chapter.

Among the wounded were Lieutenant Kilgore, of Company A, and Sergeant Hopkins, of F. A complete list of the wounded is not obtainable.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

## FORT DUSHANE—FIRST MOVEMENT ON HATCHER'S RUN.

THE new line of breastworks, begun on the evening of August 21, extended across the railroad and formed the extreme Union left. On the 22d ground was broken on the "Old Stage Road" for a large defensive work, called "Fort Dushane," in honor of Colonel Dushane, commander of the Maryland brigade, who was killed on the 21st. Here the regiment remained for several weeks, working upon the fort until it was completed, performing the usual picket duty, and getting under arms now and then to resist some apprehended attack. On the afternoon of September 1 a reconnoitring party of rebels drove in the pickets in front of the brigade, and an attempt at flanking was suspected; but a rattling fire of musketry soon compelled them to show a clean pair of heels. Prior to this, Colonel Tilden, who as commander of the brigade was not *persona grata*, had been replaced by Lieutenant-Colonel Allen, of a Massachusetts regiment, whose conduct on this occasion reconciled the men to the appointment of a stranger to handle them temporarily.

Water was a scarce article at this time, and much of that which was used for cooking purposes having to be brought quite a distance, the men of the 150th dug a well near the fort on the 3d of September, obtaining a plentiful supply.

About the 12th a plan for the consolidation of the troops of the old First Corps was carried into effect, and all were put into the Third Division, Fifth Corps, under the command of General S. Wylie Crawford. The 150th became a part of the First Brigade (General Bragg's), which then consisted of nine regi-

ments,—viz., 121st, 142d, 143d, 149th, and 150th Pennsylvania, 2d, 6th, and 7th Wisconsin, and 24th Michigan. The 121st and 142d Pennsylvania were a few days later withdrawn and added to General Hoffman's command.

On the evening of the 12th, after a hard day's work preparing and placing abatis in front of Fort Dushane, the brigade was ordered out of the fort and marched to the rear of corps head-quarters, where it bivouacked for the night. On the following morning the entire division paraded to witness the bestowal of medals of honor, by General Meade, upon several enlisted men of the Fourth Division who had distinguished themselves by gallant conduct in the action of August 21. It was an imposing scene, the interest in which was heightened by appropriate addresses by Generals Meade and Warren. After the ceremony was over the 150th moved back into the woods to the right and rear of Yellow House, General Warren's head-quarters, where it established camp, and with Cooper's old battery constituted a sort of special reserve.

Being "on the reserve" was by no means the "soft snap" which many might figure it, and if the men could have had their choice, no doubt all of them would have preferred to remain at the front in the works. As it was, they knew no rest, but were called into line times without number, in response to alarms which frequently proved groundless. Elvidge records in his diary, contemptuously, "For the least bit of a row we have to be in readiness." In some cases, however, the call was genuine, and the regiment was hurried away to the relief of expeditions in distress. "Once," says Adjutant Wright, "we were sent to get Baxter in from a difficulty, when we were under a sharp skirmish fire for some time; and on another occasion, at a time when Potter's division of the Ninth Corps was being worsted, we were despatched quite a distance beyond the railroad, together with the 21st Pennsylvania Cavalry, dismounted, when we took a small earthwork, and came very near being

captured on our return by Bragg's not getting on the right road to bring us in."

On the 22d, Crawford's division was reviewed by General Warren, and Bragg's brigade was selected to drill in front of the division, in the presence of the corps commander, who highly complimented General Bragg on the appearance and efficiency of the 150th. On this occasion the regiment aired its white gloves, which probably had something to do with the flattering comments passed upon it.

From the 28th of September to the 1st of October new dispositions were made of the Army of the Potomac, to mask or assist a movement of the Eighteenth and Tenth Corps against the rebel works on the north side of the James River. The Fifth and Ninth Corps were moved farther to the left, leaving a comparatively small force to hold the line of fortifications, and everything was done to convey the impression that a serious effort would be made to gain possession of the South Side Railroad. This, indeed, was to be attempted, if the conditions proved favorable. On the 30th, Griffin's and Ayres's divisions carried the intrenchments and redoubt on the Peebles farm, capturing several guns and some prisoners. The 150th, while sharing in the movement to the left, had no part in this particular action. On the 1st of October it was deployed as skirmishers, and, advancing about half a mile, came within range of the enemy's fire and established a picket line. The result of the several days' operations was that the Union lines were extended considerably westward and brought closer to the objective point,—the South Side Railroad,—besides greatly reducing the area controlled by the forces defending Petersburg.

On the 3d and 4th, Bragg's brigade was busily engaged in throwing up an earthwork to hold thirteen guns, the name of which—if it was ever christened—is forgotten. On the 6th the 150th received a new stand of colors, the old flag having been too much exhausted by storm and battle to hold together

longer. Its retirement was the subject of much regret in the regiment.

The picket line of the brigade was advanced over a mile on the 8th, occasioning some severe skirmishing, in which a line of rebel pits was taken.

The Pennsylvania State election took place on the 11th of October, and on the same day the polls were opened in the various regiments from that State. In the 150th the vote stood ninety-three Republican to twenty Democratic, including commissioned officers and detached men. The mean strength of the regiment on the 1st of October was one hundred and thirty-three. No statements for the 8th and 15th are at hand, but on the 22d the number had increased to two hundred and twenty-seven, owing to the return of convalescents and absentees on furlough.

On the 18th, Elvidge entered in his diary, "Detailed for picket. After dark we got to 'hollering' between the lines, the Johnnies hurrahing for McClellan, Bob Lee, and Beauregard, and we for Lincoln, Butler, etc. One Johnny hurrahed for h—l. It was kept up backward and forward for about two hours."

On the 26th came marching orders, with instructions to carry four days' rations, which was quickly interpreted to mean a determined effort to reach and hold, or destroy, the South Side Railroad. The Second, Fifth, and Ninth Corps were to act in concert in the movement, leaving in the works only a sufficient force to defend them. At dawn of the 27th, Crawford's division began its march, leaving Baxter's brigade to occupy the defences. The morning was dark and rainy, and the progress of the troops through the woods, which covered a large portion of the country, was necessarily slow. The Ninth Corps was to carry some intrenchments near Hatcher's Run, or occupy the force defending them, while Warren's (Fifth) corps, advancing to Armstrong's Mill, was to support the Ninth

in the event of its success, pushing forward on its left; or, if Parke's attack failed, General Warren was to cross Hatcher's Run, and, in conjunction with Hancock, endeavor to turn the enemy's right. It is unnecessary to rehearse all the details of the two days' operations, which were without important results, owing partly to the unfavorable weather, but chiefly to an insufficient knowledge of the topography of the country and a miscalculation of the obstacles to be surmounted and the distances to be traversed. Hancock's corps had some very severe fighting, with varying success, and Gregg's cavalry was closely engaged with Hampton's command, holding its own tenaciously and beating back every attack. Crawford's division, which was sent across Hatcher's Run, with instructions to deploy and sweep up the stream, with its right touching the run, until it should connect with Hancock, encountered unexpected difficulties, and, owing to the dense woods and the too great distance of Hancock's position to the left, the junction was not effected.

Adjutant Wright says of the part taken by the 150th in this movement, "We started on the Hatcher's Run affair at four o'clock on the morning of October 27, and deploying at ten o'clock, advanced with instructions to go to Hatcher's Run, but not to cross it. We soon found the rebels, but not enough to stop our progress, and had advanced about two miles when Lieutenant Mead, of the division staff, halted us and drew the right of our line back to bring it on the north side of a small stream which we had crossed with that part of the line, saying it was Hatcher's Run. Shortly afterwards Lieutenant Herr, also of division staff, arrived and seemed surprised that we had halted, and, when informed that it was Mead's order, seemed amazed that he should have 'taken a little spring ditch for Hatcher's Run.' Soon after starting again we encountered the first real hard opposition we had, and for some time were under quite a heavy fire, the rebels being, as usual, in a dense thicket. We finally got them on the go, and had no more trouble—except

at one or two points of the line—in reaching Hatcher's Run, where we remained quite a long time,—I should think fully an hour,—waiting for the troops to come up. Artillery was parked in plain view of us on the other side, with horses picketed. The tobacco wagons were issuing tobacco to the 'rebs,' and they seemed to have no knowledge of our being so close. The pickets that we drove off must have returned to their line very much to our right. It was then that Major Jones sent me to the rear to inform our brigade where we were, and to bring up the troops. Sergeant-Major Topping was captured before this, along with Corporal E. L. Dickinson, of Company B, off to our left. As I was taken in the attempt to get to our troops, it ended my knowledge of what occurred afterwards."

Some time before reaching the stream, and while the rebel pickets were still making a show of resistance, Major Jones instructed Sergeant-Major Topping to go to the extreme left of the line to see how it was getting on. He hurried away on his mission, and just as he reached the outside flankers, consisting of Corporal Dickinson and two others, the main skirmish line swung around rapidly to the right,—an evolution in which the flankers were unable to join promptly on account of an ugly morass in their front. Almost before he had time to take in the situation the sergeant-major was approached by a man of imposing size, wearing a regulation blue overcoat, and looking exactly like a Union cavalryman, who asked him a question or two in regard to the line as he moved forward, and then, suddenly whipping out a revolver from beneath his overcoat, thrust it in his face and with an oath demanded his surrender. At the same moment he became aware of the presence of half a dozen rebels, a little to the left and rear, all covering him with their guns, making any idea of resistance hopeless. One of the flankers, who subsequently escaped around the swampy thicket, fired at the man with the pistol, but failed to hit him. The sergeant-major and Corporal Dickinson had nothing to do but

surrender, and were soon on their way to test prison life at Richmond and Danville.

Major Jones, with his skirmishers, having outstripped the line of battle, when (in Wright's homely phrase) he had got the rebels "on the go," and finding himself still unsupported after he had waited more than an hour at the run, began to surmise that something had gone amiss, and deemed it advisable to communicate with the brigade commander. He accordingly sent Adjutant Wright back on this errand, with the result already stated. Owing to the wide gap on Hancock's right, the enemy had occupied the woods some distance in Jones's rear, placing the little regiment in a most unenviable situation, although it was oblivious of the new danger. As he had no order to withdraw, and night was falling, the major concluded to make the best of it and remain where he was. The men were cautioned to maintain their line, exercise increased vigilance, and abstain from firing unless attacked.

Meanwhile, Crawford's command, finding itself confronted by large bodies of rebels who had broken through Hancock's lines or skirted his right flank, and in danger of being surrounded, had withdrawn across the run and taken up a new position. Either from ignorance of Major Jones's location or because in the excitement of the moment the matter was overlooked, no instructions whatever were sent to that officer. Indeed, it was not known either at brigade or division head-quarters whether the major and his Bucktails—when their absence was finally remarked—had not been "gobbled up" bodily by the enemy, and much anxiety was felt for their safety.

The night, like the day, was wet and gloomy, and the regiment rarely passed more uncomfortable hours. At dawn Sergeant Jonathan Hall, of Company B, returned to the line, having safely made his way to brigade head-quarters and back. He was soon followed by Captain Davis, of the brigade staff, and some 150th men who had been on detached duty the pre-

vious day, or from one cause or another had dropped back from the front to the line of battle, and under their instructions Major Jones began the perilous work of withdrawing. It was no easy matter to retire in the presence of a watchful enemy, and the movement had hardly been undertaken before it was discovered and bullets began to fly. Breaking some distance to the rear, and filing to the right, the command crossed the run on a fallen log, not without the disabling of several men. One poor fellow lost his footing on the log and was thoroughly souped in the cold stream, but escaped without further injury. Piloted by the searching party, the little regiment was not long in rejoining the brigade, where it was welcomed with cheer upon cheer, having been given up as captured.

Elvidge's record of the Hatcher's Run movement reads,—

*"October 27.—Marched at daylight. One brigade of each division left behind. Moved out towards the South Side Railroad about ten miles. Here we came up with the Second and Ninth Corps. Our regiment, as usual, deployed as skirmishers and moved forward about half a mile, then wheeled to the left and on again for about a mile and a half. A division staff-officer took Captain Sigler, myself, and Bill Williams out to hunt the lines. Found nothing but Johnnies in front, and, returning, he (the staff-officer) lost us all in the woods. After hunting around a couple of hours, found the brigade about dark. The Johnnies broke through the Second Corps and got in our rear. They brought all their prisoners and wounded into our lines by mistake. One party took two division orderlies and a staff-officer within about twenty yards of our line of battle. About half-past one o'clock General Crawford undertook to take our brigade out, as we were almost surrounded. Lost the way and ran into A. P. Hill's line of battle, but finally came out all right. The regiment lay on the line all night, with the Johnnies fighting them on one side and the 155th and 91st Pennsylvania on the other [?]."*

*"October 28.—This morning advanced the eighteen [150th men] left here, and found out where the regiment was, and succeeded in getting it in. Adjutant [Wright], sergeant-major [Topping], and 'Dixey' captured; other losses unknown. Commenced moving back about nine o'clock, and were all back inside of our works by four in the afternoon. What the move was intended for is more than I can say."*

In a letter to his mother, dated October 29, 1864, Lieutenant Harvey Fisher, of Company A, says, "We started from here on the morning of the 27th, at four o'clock, and reached our old camp again last evening about six o'clock. . . . We did not fight in line of battle, but had a very hot skirmish for about twenty-four hours, during which we lost in the regiment fourteen men wounded and two prisoners; also one officer, our adjutant, was taken prisoner. I am now acting in his place."

Of the wounded at Hatcher's Run, Private Patrick Gibbons, of Company E, died of his injuries on the 5th of January following, and Private Simon Erdley, of Company D, lost his right arm. Sergeant Edward B. Fowler, of F, who was slightly wounded on the 27th, was appointed acting sergeant-major *vice* Topping, captured.

Adjutant Wright tells the story of his own capture as follows: "On our way up we passed over a large swamp full of tussocks, and between these, in places, deep water. In returning (to look for the brigade) I crossed the same swamp, and was very careful not to make a misstep. Going on in this way, with my eyes directed to the ground, and having to jump from one grassy tuft to another, my progress became quite rapid. On reaching the end of the swamp I was on a pretty good run and well-nigh out of breath. The first thing I saw, on looking up, was two rebel soldiers looking away from me, and the next a large pine-tree, three or four feet across, just to my right. It took only an instant to jump behind the tree, where I caught my breath and considered what I should do. I had no revolver,

and could not draw my sword, thanks to Lieutenant Funk, who, in riding over us one night at Laurel Hill, set his horse's feet on it and mashed the scabbard so tight to the blade that it required assistance to get the latter out. To run back over the swamp, which was at least four hundred yards wide, was too risky, and I did not know what to do; but finally thought I had better try to see if the rebels were still looking (or going) *the other way*. Peeping out from behind the tree, I was surprised to find them both expecting me, with muskets to the shoulder, cocked, and demanding, 'Surrender, sir!' This I had to do, except to deliver my sword, which they did not ask me for. I used considerable argument to induce them to put down their guns, but only succeeded in getting one of them to do so. I was sure they would take me right into our regiment, as on asking them where their lines were they pointed in the exact direction from which I had come. They had been on picket duty there, or near there, and knew a path around the swamp. They marched me off, one in front of me with his gun at a trail, but the other kept his gun cocked and at a ready. We soon struck a road leading to Hatcher's Run, and which crossed it but a short distance to the left of our regiment. On this road we met Colonel Peyton, of General Lee's staff, to whom both of my captors appealed to be allowed to take me to the rear, telling him how many prisoners they had already taken that day, while, in fact, they were stragglers from a North Carolina regiment which had gone to the left, where Hancock was having a hard fight. Colonel Peyton at once asked for my sword, and questioned me, trying to make me out a spy. He could not understand how I could be there and belong to the Fifth Corps. . . . He left me in charge of the two 'rebs' who caught me, and rode off to see if he could find anything of our regiment. He went directly to its rear, not very far from the line, and rode the full length of it. He was mounted on as pretty a bay horse as I ever saw, and was handsomely uniformed in gray, buttoned up

to the neck, the buttons nearly as large as blacking-boxes. I expected him to be shot, every instant; but no doubt our men were so intently viewing the park of artillery, the tobacco train (it was 'Tobacco Day' with the 'rebs'), and the troops marching to the left on the other side of the run, that they did not look to the rear at all. On his return, Colonel Peyton turned me over to Sergeant Pollard, of Lee's head-quarters guard, who was coming in from Hancock's fight with a squad of prisoners, and 'fired' the poor devils who had taken me out to the front."

The adjutant gives many interesting details of the march to Petersburg, where he met Corporal Dickinson, and of the journey to Richmond, where he was safely housed in "Libby, the palace of all rebel prisons." Thence, after a week's sojourn, he was taken to Danville, Virginia, at which point he rested until the middle of February, 1865. He was then fortunate enough to be returned to Libby, paroled, and sent North, arriving at Annapolis about the 22d of the same month.

## CHAPTER XXV.

IN WINTER-QUARTERS—EXCHANGE OF ARMS—PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION—SECOND WELDON RAILROAD EXPEDITION—SECOND HATCHER'S RUN (OR DABNEY'S MILL).

Two days after the return from Hatcher's Run a new camp was outlined for the entire division, and the work of putting up winter-quarters began. The same night (October 30) a body of the enemy executed a skilful raid on the front of the Second Corps, capturing most of its pickets and causing quite a commotion along the Union lines. All the troops sprang to arms, but the raiders retired as quickly as they came, and quiet soon reigned again.

On the 4th of November the regiment enjoyed a most gratifying surprise. Ever since the army started on the Wilderness campaign the 150th had been pushed to the front as skirmishers on all occasions, and a thousand times had sighed for breech-loading rifles to replace the inconvenient "Enfields" brought from Harrisburg in 1862. At last its wish was gratified. The old weapons were turned in on the day named, and the men were made proud and happy by the receipt of new breech-loading "Sharps," with whose mechanism they were soon familiar.

The Presidential election was held on Tuesday, November 8. The story of how the soldiers voted is best told in a letter written on the following day by Lieutenant Fisher, and addressed to his mother:

"We had an exciting time over the election yesterday. I will give you the result in our brigade:

|   |     | Democratic. | Republican. |
|---|-----|-------------|-------------|
| 149th Pennsylvania Volunteers . . . . . | 102 | 188         |             |
| 143d Pennsylvania Volunteers . . . . .  | 100 | 186         |             |
| 150th Pennsylvania Volunteers . . . . . | 27  | 111         |             |
| 2d Wisconsin . . . . .                  | 1   | 70          |             |
| 6th Wisconsin . . . . .                 | 21  | 123         |             |
| 7th Wisconsin . . . . .                 | 30  | 137         |             |
| 24th Michigan . . . . .                 | 50  | 176         |             |
| Total . . . . .                         | 331 | 991         |             |

"Almost all of the new regiments are giving a large majority for McClellan; but you will find that most of the men (I will not say all) who are voting the Democratic ticket have either lately come out for the large *bounties*, and not for the sake of the country, or have forever 'bummed' in the hospital and never fired a gun. You will find no soldier who is fighting simply for the good of the country that will cast a vote for McClellan and Pendleton."

A review of General Bragg's brigade by General Crawford, on the 12th of November, was followed on the 14th by a review of the same brigade by its own commander. On this latter occasion the several regiments had added an extra polish to their entire outfit, and their appearance and movements were exceptionally brilliant. After the affair was over, General Crawford, who had witnessed it, said to Bragg, "Your men didn't get themselves up like that for me." "No," replied Bragg; "they don't think as much of you as they do of me!"

Elvidge mentions the occurrence in this wise: "Old Bragg had another review this afternoon. The affair of Saturday did not appear to satisfy him. I guess he had had a little too much, or wanted to show us the new coat which he had on."

For several weeks quiet prevailed, and, beyond the receipt of dress-coats and regulation hats, and daily practise with the new rifles, there is nothing of interest to chronicle. On the evening of November 26 commissions arrived for Edward B. Fowler, of Company F, and Gilbert Gordon, of Company I, as first lieu-

tenants in their respective companies, and on the following day they assumed the duties of their rank.

General Warren's (Fifth) corps, strengthened by Mott's division of the Second, and Gregg's cavalry, started on the 6th of December to complete the destruction of the Weldon Railroad. Halt was made for the night near the Jerusalem plank road. On the following day Bragg's brigade led, marching down the plank road about fifteen miles, then turning to the right and crossing the Nottoway River on pontoons at dark, and reaching Sussex Court-House before bivouacking. The column passed through Coman's Well on the morning of the 8th, struck the railroad, and immediately began the work of destruction. The several divisions, in line of battle, with pickets advantageously posted, tore up the track in their front, burning the ties and twisting the rails, and then marching to the left, repeated the operation until the road was dismantled to a point forty miles from Petersburg. The work occupied two days, and, as the weather was cold and wet and rations were not over-abundant, much suffering was entailed on the troops. The return march was begun on the 10th, the 150th moving as skirmishers on the flank. The strain on their physical resources that day was very great, as the distance made was sixteen miles, over fields sodden by the continuous rain and through woods filled with a tangle of undergrowth, to say nothing of swampy places, which were all too frequent. On the 11th the regiment was selected to cover the rear, and had a scarcely less uncomfortable experience than on the preceding day, having to hurry "forward into line" at brief intervals, in anticipation of an attack. When on the following morning the seven days' excursion ended on the spot where the brigade rested the first night of the outward march, the men were more thoroughly exhausted than they had been at any time since the trying days of Spottsylvania and the North Anna.

A change of position was made on the morning of the 16th,

the brigade moving into the woods a mile or more to the west of the Jerusalem plank road, where work was immediately begun on new winter-quarters. The weather was growing cold, and, with an insufficient food supply,—the reasons for which were not apparent,—there was urgent need of comfortable shelter. Christmas came and went with nothing to distinguish it from other days, except the memories which it brought of merry Christmases spent at home in the “piping times of peace.” The soldier’s kettle (in most cases nothing better than an empty tomato can) gave forth no more savory odor than that of boiled pork, while “hard-tack” and coffee furnished the rest of the feast. All the same there were happy hearts and shouts of joy on the morning of the 26th, when a despatch was read before each regiment announcing the capture of Savannah by General Sherman, with thousands of prisoners, scores of guns, and endless quantities of stores.

On the last day of December the first snow-storm of the season set in. As the inclement weather and muddy condition of the roads made active field operations impossible, leaves of absence and furloughs were now granted quite freely, and a number of officers and men of the 150th were permitted to visit their homes, fifteen days being the longest absence approved. Among those favored may be mentioned Major Jones, Lieutenants Fisher, Rorer, Gordon, and Fowler, Sergeant-Major Hall, Sergeant Fink, of Company I, and Corporal Lister, of Company B. Of course all were not away at the same time. In the absence of the sergeant-major, the adjutant’s clerk, Frank H. Elvidge, performed the duties of that position.

Captain Beckwith, who had already seen three years and a half of active service, and whose infirm mother was anxious for his return home, made application on the 22d of January to be mustered out, but his petition was returned on the 23d, disapproved. On the latter date Private Paul Hoffman returned to Company A for duty, having been absent ever since the battle

of Gettysburg, in which a dangerous wound in the breast came near ending his life.

On February 4 orders were received to be ready to move, with light-marching outfit, at half-past six on the morning of the 5th. Again there was to be wrestling for the South Side Railroad, and the regiment was to renew its acquaintance with Hatcher's Run and have "Dabney's Mill" impressed upon its memory and stamped upon its banners. Elvidge chronicles the movement briefly in his diary:

"*February 5.*—Moved just after daybreak. Took the Halifax road, crossed Hatcher's Run, and marched within about three miles of Dinwiddie Court-House. Halted for about an hour, made fires, and then marched back again to the junction of the Vaughan road. Deployed in line of battle and halted for the night. Had a row with the 6th Wisconsin about rails. Weather very cold and we had no blankets.

"*February 6.*—Hauled out about three o'clock, took the Vaughan road, crossed Hatcher's Run just at daybreak, and moved perhaps a mile, when we about-faced and went back to the creek again. Lay there until near three o'clock, when we crossed the stream once more, moved to the right of the First Division, and deployed, the line of battle following us up. Opened the ball, charged the rebels in their works, and everything was going serenely when I was struck in the left leg by a 'Minie,' which shattered the bone somewhat, but not enough to necessitate the loss of the limb."

(Elvidge was taken to the division hospital, and subsequently to City Point and other hospitals. From this time his diary ceases to be of interest from a strictly military stand-point.)

The movement which Elvidge describes as having occurred about three o'clock P.M. is stated by General Humphreys to have taken place at one o'clock, and to have been a reconnaissance by General Crawford's division along the Vaughan and Dabney's Mill roads, with Ayres's division in support to the left

and rear. The 150th, as skirmishers, led Bragg's brigade, and soon encountered the skirmishers of a portion of Pegram's command, who were driven back on their main line, and the latter dislodged and pushed as far as Dabney's Mill. A fresh division of the enemy coming to Pegram's support, the tables were turned and Crawford's left was forced back. Three brigades were hurried to Crawford's assistance, but Mahone's division arriving, so strengthened the rebel line that it advanced with confidence to the attack, and in spite of Warren's utmost endeavors his troops were compelled to yield ground at every point. But for the timely arrival of a portion of General Wheaton's division, of the Sixth Corps, the enemy's success might have been more serious, involving the capture of numerous prisoners and guns. The broken line of the Fifth Corps was quickly re-formed on Wheaton's deploying column, and the rebel progress checked.

On the 7th the troops again advanced at an early hour, and, driving the enemy, began to fortify a new line. The next two or three days were spent in work on these new defences.

Second Hatcher's Run, or Dabney's Mill, was the last battle in which the 150th participated, and the record of its losses proves conclusively that it was "at the front" and had its full share of the fighting. A copy of the morning report of January 22, 1865, shows the number of officers present for duty on that day to have been eight, and the number of enlisted men one hundred and fifty-five, exclusive of fifty-eight men on detached service. The strength of the command was doubtless about the same when the Dabney's Mill affair occurred. Out of this small number five men were killed or mortally wounded, and perhaps twenty or more wounded, although the exact number of the latter cannot now be learned. The only one whose name has been ascertained is Private John B. Litch, of Company G.

Those who were killed, or died of their injuries, were,—

*Company D.*

Private John Deal, mortally wounded February 5.

*Company G.*

Sergeant S. De Loss Taggart, mortally wounded February 6.

Corporal Theodore Yardley, killed February 6.

*Company H.*

Private Jonathan Deross, killed February 6.

Private John A. Robb, killed February 6.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

TO ELMIRA, NEW YORK—GUARDING CONSCRIPTS—EXPEDITION TO FALL BROOK, PENNSYLVANIA, AND A BLOODLESS VICTORY—MUSTER-OUT AND FINAL PAY—HOME AGAIN.

THE history of the regiment draws rapidly to a close. It was not the good fortune of the 150th to share in the exciting “round-up” which followed the evacuation of Richmond and Petersburg, or witness the impressive scenes which marked the surrender of Lee’s army at Appomattox. It heard with unbounded joy of the final success of the Army of the Potomac under its great leader, Grant, and his able but modest lieutenant, Meade, after years of patient campaigning, in which, more from want of capable management than from lack of discipline, zeal, or courage, no glorious victory had been inscribed upon its banners, except Gettysburg. It was filled with a mighty sorrow by the news of the assassination of President Lincoln, who was regarded with a more than filial affection by all who wore the nation’s blue, and whose many-sided greatness, shining through his unstudied simplicity, made him the ideal of their hearts,—the equal of the immortal Washington.

On the 10th of February an order was received detaching the brigade from the Army of the Potomac, to proceed North on special service. On the following day the 143d, 149th, and 150th Regiments, worn and wasted by constant duty and almost incessant fighting, took boat at City Point for Baltimore. The Wisconsin regiments, which had accompanied them to the point of embarkation were, for some reason, sent back to the lines at Petersburg.

As the weather was threatening, the steamer lay at anchor all night near Fortress Monroe, and did not reach its destination until the evening of the 12th. Here, after a delay of a day or two, orders came to the 149th and 150th to proceed by rail to Elmira, New York, to take charge of the rendezvous for conscripts at that place; and the 143d was at the same time instructed to go by water to Hart's Island, in New York harbor, for similar duty at that point. After nearly two years and a half of intimate association, chiefly in the field, these well-tried regiments separated with extreme regret.

The railroad journey from Baltimore to Elmira was without important incident, and the 149th and 150th were soon comfortably quartered in wooden barracks on the confines of the latter city, where their duty was to guard a considerable assemblage of conscripts, and furnish details from time to time to escort detachments of these not over-patriotic levies to the front. Much looseness of method had hitherto prevailed in the management of the camp, and complaints were numerous that, by the use of money or other bribes, many of those who had drawn prizes by the "turn of the wheel" had escaped the service for which they were intended. All this was now changed. It was apparent from the start that the "Bucktails" had brought their habits of vigilance and discipline from the enemy's country, and were never more intent upon "business" than in their new position. They were not without annoyance, however, from unruly members of this fortuitous aggregation, who conspired at times to break away from their confinement by drawing the attention of the sentinels to one portion of the stockade—always at night—while they endeavored by a wild rush to effect a breach at another. On one occasion a passage was dug under the high enclosing fence, in the darkness, and a score or two of those who were in the secret slipped out, one at a time, only to be collared, as they emerged from the tunnel, by silent guardsmen, who quietly returned them to the inside of

the inclosure. The officer of the day was quick to discover their plan, and had promptly posted men at the point of exit, whose summary action went far to cure this mania for escaping.

An organized attempt had been made, at an earlier day, to break down the fence at one end of the grounds, and this was partially successful, but not a man was permitted to get away. The ringleaders in the plot looted the sutler's establishment, which was in the grounds; but Lieutenant Kilgore, with an ample detail of guards, quickly searched the entire camp, to such purpose that nearly everything of value was recovered. In his gratitude the sutler insisted upon presenting the lieutenant with a gold watch, and would take no refusal.

Colonel John Irvin, of the 149th, as the ranking officer of the two regiments, commanded the entire force, and, with the advice and assistance of Major Jones, ably administered the affairs of the post. Guard-mounting and dress parade were observed with due formality, and, by consolidating the music of the two commands under the leadership of an excellent musician from the 149th, an imposing and most efficient drum corps was created, whose performances attracted crowds of admiring citizens to the neighborhood of the barracks. Some of the mounted officers, in their abundant leisure, conceived a fancy for driving, and having broken their mixed assortment of horses to harness, made frequent excursions to "Uncle Dick's" and other well-known resorts near the city, where they were always sure to find something better than ordinary camp fare. In their boundless ambition a "four-in-hand" was set up for a brief period, with Quartermaster Voorhis as "whip;" but, as Adjutant Wright expresses it, "it was not a howling success."

The regiment enjoyed comparative quiet at Elmira until the beginning of May, when an exciting diversion was afforded it in the shape of an expedition to Fall Brook, Tioga County, Pennsylvania, to quell a "strike" of coal-miners at workings in which "General" Magee was largely interested. Matters had assumed

an ugly phase, and the local authorities finding themselves unable to cope with the riotous workmen, appealed to Governor Curtin for military aid. The nearest available troops were at Elmira, but much red tape had to be gone through before their services could be obtained. The governor finally succeeded in arranging the matter with the Secretary of War and the commander of the department, and on or about the 7th of May the 150th was ordered to start for the scene of the disturbance. In the absence of Major Jones, who was in Philadelphia on leave, Captain Sigler marshalled the regiment, and, scenting battle in the air, loaded his men on a special train with commendable alacrity. The journey occupied an entire night, the train halting at several points to pick up the sheriff of Tioga County and large bodies of armed deputies. The sheriff was a man of strong backbone, and expressed the belief that he could overcome all resistance with his own force; but the military, he thought, would meet with no opposition, while loss of life would inevitably result if only himself and his deputies appeared upon the scene. The correctness of his judgment was shown by the sequel.

Fall Brook was reached at daybreak, and from one to two hundred tired and hungry soldiers were quickly in line along the railroad track, calculating the chances of a "square meal," but ready for instant service, if demanded. Captain Sigler was met at the train by Mr. Brewer, general superintendent of the mines, and on inquiring of the latter what was wanted of him, received the gratifying reply, "The first thing we want of you and your command is to come and get a good breakfast, which is now ready for you."

The captain, whose faith in every soldier of his command was absolute, at once ordered arms to be stacked, and a detail of two or three guards placed over them while the regiment took the offered refreshment. The adjutant, less trustful than his superior, took care to detail two or three of the best men in the

ranks for this duty, and himself kept a watchful eye on the arms during the absence of the main body. He relates that the smile which had previously irradiated the superintendent's face "quickly vanished at the idea of allowing a lot of guns and ammunition to stand on one side of the railroad track, in the keeping of so insignificant a guard, with a howling mob of women and boys on the other side, and five hundred armed men close by, desperate enough to undertake anything. The mining official mildly suggested an increase of the force, but the captain only laughed at his fears, and the boys went for their breakfast."

In all sincerity, Captain Sigler—although his confidence in his Bucktails was justified by the result, for nothing was molested during the meal—treated the situation far too lightly, and might have suffered for so grave a military error. Fortunately, the guards had nothing more serious to contend with than the vituperative tongues of a crowd of angry women, which served to amuse rather than offend them.

The insurrectionary force of miners, numbering about five hundred, armed with guns, revolvers, knives, and bludgeons, was located at the edge of a wood, a mile and a half or two miles east of the village. Thither Captain Sigler led his little battalion, after all had satisfactorily breakfasted, revolving his plan of attack as he went. In a hollow, not far from the wood, and out of sight of the miners, he deployed his column, and detaching a small body of men from each wing, sent them under trusty officers to get on the flanks of the insurrectionary force within fifteen minutes. Lieutenant Kilgore commanded the flanking party on the right and Captain Beckwith the one on the left, and as soon as these were seen to have gained their proper places, the main line advanced rapidly and in good order until it reached a point about a hundred yards from the wood. Here the line was halted, in plain view of the strikers, and Captain Sigler, accompanied by his adjutant, the sheriff, and

Superintendent Brewer, went forward to the edge of the wood and demanded their surrender, giving them three minutes to come out and lay down their arms. With this stern summons they promptly complied, and thus ended a *quasi* insurrection which at one time promised "no end" of damage to property, as well as bloodshed. Several of the ringleaders were arrested on the spot and taken back to the village, where they were duly arraigned before a magistrate and committed for trial. A squad of soldiers escorted them to the Wellsborough jail.

Lieutenant Fisher\* was sent with a detachment of men to Blossburg, where some difficulty was apprehended, but the profoundest peace prevailed after his arrival.

The rest of the regiment was billeted for several days in the

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\* Lieutenant Harvey Fisher was commissioned captain of Company A, March 6, 1864, but, on account of the absence of Captain Widdis (who during his long term of imprisonment in the South had been commissioned major and lieutenant-colonel), could not be mustered in his new grade. He died at Atlantic City, New Jersey, August 31, 1885. Born at "Wakefield," Germantown, November 4, 1843, his youth was passed in that beautiful rural quarter, and here he imbibed that love of athletic sports which was so much a characteristic of the youth of the neighborhood in his time. From the Germantown Academy he entered the University of Pennsylvania, but in the second year of the war, impelled by a high sense of patriotism, he left his class and entered the 150th as second lieutenant of Company A, being then not quite nineteen years old. From the autumn of 1863 until the close of hostilities he commanded his company with marked ability, enjoying the respect and esteem of his men and the good opinion of his fellow-officers as well as of his superiors in rank.

With the exception of two years spent in planting cotton, in Louisiana, at the close of the war, he was occupied for the most part in the manufacture of iron at Duncannon, Pennsylvania, where he lived up to the time of his death. His taking-off, in the prime of manhood, brought sadness to a large circle of relatives, and fell with the sharpness of a personal loss on those who, having shared with him the fatigues and dangers of the field, admired him for his many sterling traits, and gave him to the end full measure of soldierly affection.

village of Fall Brook, and lived literally on the "fat of the land," receiving the kindest attentions not only from the permanent population, but even from the miners and their families.

To quote from the adjutant's account of the expedition: "The head-quarters of the command was in the house of a Mr. (or Mrs.) Smith, where Mr. Magee also made his home when at the mines, and a royal good place it was,—everything as clean as a pin, and the table furnished with everything, cooked and served in the best style. Mr. Magee would have nothing roasted in a stove, but, instead, in a large oven, a whole quarter of large veal being brought on the table in one piece, as brown as a nut.

"Stock ale was on tap at a dozen places, free for the men; ale also on tap at the head-quarters, with the addition of prime rye whiskey; and two English servants were at hand to do our bidding."

General Magee seems to have been very favorably impressed with the conduct of the regiment, and had much to say in commendation of its discipline. Soon after its return to Elmira, at the end of this extraordinary "picnic" of three or four days, he sent a considerable sum of money to be distributed among the men, of which each received not less than five or six dollars. In no other way could he have shown more gratifying testimony of his appreciation of their services, by which a formidable mutiny—for it could hardly be called a "strike"—had been put down in the shortest possible time, without the shedding of a drop of blood. He also sent a large number of passes over various railroads in the State of New York, enabling the officers to make inexpensive excursions to Niagara Falls and other points of interest within easy reach. Nor did his generosity stop here. Before leaving Fall Brook a number of the officers were warmly urged by him to return a little later and join him in a trout-fishing expedition, as his guests. A party was accordingly made up, and started in due time for the scene of the recent triumph, neglecting, however, to notify the general of the

date of its coming. As good luck would have it, the officers composing the party met him, on their arrival at Corning, on his way to New York City to attend a meeting of the Bituminous Coal Association, of which he was president. Without a moment's hesitation he instructed his secretary to notify the board by telegraph that the meeting was postponed indefinitely, and, ordering his private car and locomotive, conveyed his unexpected guests in great style to Fall Brook. As the streams in that vicinity were much discolored by rain, which made the first day's fishing a failure, teams were provided, with abundant store of refreshments of every kind, and on more distant waters the party enjoyed several days of delightful sport.

Elmira was now beginning to fill up with returning New York regiments, awaiting their final pay and muster-out. After the long and severe restraint to which they had been subjected at the front, they naturally chafed under the restrictions imposed upon them almost in the shadow of their own homes, and the fact that Pennsylvania troops furnished the patrols and assisted in maintaining the peace of the city created a growing feeling of animosity towards them. It culminated in something very like a conspiracy to "tear out" the two Keystone regiments, although these had displayed a most friendly disposition on all occasions, voluntarily assisting in the many entertainments set on foot by the New York organizations for their own exclusive benefit. On the evening chosen for the hostile demonstration a recently returned company of artillery, which had drifted into the plot, discovered—almost at the last moment—that the troops against which the riotous movement was aimed were the very "Bucktails" who, on the first day at Gettysburg, when Hill and Ewell were closing in on Doubleday's shattered forces, in their final stand near the seminary, had, at the risk of their own capture,—perhaps their annihilation,—saved their battery by holding the enemy in check while the pieces were limbered and drawn from the field. The memory of this noble deed, and of

the courage and self-sacrifice which accompanied it, stayed the hands of the artillerists and sent their sympathies surging in the direction of the menaced Pennsylvanians. Instantly they withdrew from the clamorous mob and, denouncing its proposed action as both cowardly and unsoldierlike, put their guns in position to defend the Bucktail barracks. With their defection the whole infamous scheme of attack fell to pieces.

Had the assault been made, as originally intended, the two little Pennsylvania regiments, with their quick-firing breech-loaders, would have given a good account of themselves, doubtless maintaining a successful defence; but as the New Yorkers still retained their arms, a bloody conflict, such as this threatened to be, would have cast a painful gloom over the closing days of their long and honorable service.

The *closing days* had come. The war was at an end. The "Confederacy" upon which the hopes of the South had centred, and into whose treasury its wealth had been poured without stint, had crumbled at last, leaving its people poor and helpless, to be encouraged and started again on the way to prosperity by the benign government against which they had so treasonably revolted. Nothing remained but to disband the great armies whose steadfast loyalty to the Union, patient endurance, and sublime courage had accomplished the gigantic task assigned them. This work was already in progress, and everywhere the restless soldier was resuming the garb and occupation of the peaceful citizen.

On the 23d of June, at Elmira, after two years and ten months of active service, the 150th was mustered out by Captain James R. Reid, 10th United States Infantry, Assistant Commissary of Muster. Among those responding to their names were some who had recently returned from Southern prison-pens, and still bore painful traces of their long confinement and unnecessarily cruel treatment. At five o'clock on the following afternoon, accompanied by the 149th, which had been mustered out that

day, the regiment took train on the Northern Central Railroad for Harrisburg. Arriving opposite that city on the 25th, the twin commands left the cars, and, crossing the Susquehanna on the wagon bridge, made an imposing entry, to which the superb music of their consolidated drum corps lent additional *éclat*. At Camp Curtin tents were ready for their use, and here, for the most part, both officers and men rested for the next few days, while awaiting their final pay. Perhaps it is a mistake to say that they "rested." The 150th was never busier. There were so many things to do, so many things to say, so many photographs to be taken and exchanged, so many reminiscences to be rehearsed, so many plans for the future to be talked over, so many promises to be registered, before the parting of these men, who, by a common sentiment of patriotism and participation in the same toils and dangers, side by side, for years, had been bound together as closely as brothers. Who has not borne arms in exhausting campaigns—sleeping often upon the hard earth, watching on lonely outposts through anxious nights, marching, heavy-laden and weary, day after day, joining in the wild tumult of battle, dividing the scanty biscuit or the failing treasure of the canteen in hours of hunger or thirst, and tasting all the sweet comradeship begotten of community of suffering and peril—can never realize the fulness of the soldier's mind and heart on the eve of disbandment.

At last came the pay,—first to the 149th, then to the 150th. On the afternoon of June 29, Major C. Baird, Paymaster U.S.A., counted out the crisp notes which squared the wage account between the government and these faithful servants.

By a wise provision of the War Department, each man was permitted to retain his gun on payment of a moderate sum, and few there were who did not avail themselves of the opportunity to possess themselves of so precious a souvenir.

Many promotions were made, by commission, in the last weeks of the regiment's service, but without muster. The

record of these is complete in Bates's monumental work,—“History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers,”—and it need scarcely be said that in every instance the advancement was well deserved. In bestowing upon Major George W. Jones the lieutenant-colonelcy in May, and the colonelcy on the 15th of June, 1865, the State authorities did tardy justice to a gallant and successful commander.

On the night of June 29 and the morning of the 30th, amid smiles and tears and hand-shakings and embraces, into which a world of feeling entered, the last good-byes were spoken, and singly and in groups the members of the regiment scattered to their homes; some to wed again the trades and occupations from which the call to arms had divorced them; others to enter upon new pursuits of which they had little dreamed when they flocked to the colors; others still—boys, sprung swiftly to manhood—to begin serious preparation for their life-work; all, with an added shade of thoughtfulness and a deeper love of country, to accept manfully and discharge cheerfully each higher obligation of American citizenship. Forgotten were the hardships and sufferings of the dark days of the war, or remembered only as a background against which shone more luminously the pleasant incidents, the golden deeds and experiences, the incomparable friendships of those years of civil strife; and not a heart but beat with honest pride at the thought of having contributed—however modestly—to the restoration of the “Union of the Fathers.” That feeling was to grow—those memories to become priceless—with passing time, and the record of the patriotism, courage, endurance, and patient suffering of these returning “volunteers” to be accepted as the richest of all heritages by their children and their children’s children.

## APPENDIX.

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### PRISON LIFE IN DIXIE.

#### I.

##### THE MARCH FROM GETTYSBURG TO RICHMOND—BELL ISLAND—EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF FRANK H. ELVIDGE, OF COMPANY A.

In forwarding his diaries to be used in the preparation of the history of the regiment, Elvidge writes, "You may find the record of the march made by those of us who were taken prisoners at Gettysburg of some interest. This march of one hundred and seventy-five miles, or that part of it from Martinsburg, Virginia, to Staunton, at the head of the Shenandoah Valley, I made *barefoot* over the rough turnpike road, and continued so until my final parole and my arrival at Annapolis, Maryland, on September 30, 1863."

[On the 4th of July the column of prisoners, composed of between one and two hundred commissioned officers and more than three thousand enlisted men, entered upon the long journey, marching about six miles through a hard rain. The rebel wagon trains were hurrying to the rear, and there was every indication of a desire on the part of General Lee to put the Potomac between his own and Meade's army as quickly as possible.]

"*July 5.*—Rebel wagon trains cut off. Marched to Monterey Springs. Reached that place about midnight, passing Fairfield and Cumberland Gap. The town is torn completely out by the 'rebs.' Very muddy and dirty.

"*July 6.*—Marched all day and night, passing through Waynesborough and Waterloo. In the former place all the houses were closed, and the people would have nothing to do with the 'rebs.'

"*July 7.*—Came through Hagerstown. Reached the Potomac about noon, making thirty hours at one stretch. Rained hard all night. No shelter. People mostly loyal.

"*July 8.*—Started to cross the Potomac at Williamsport, but for some reason or other we were sent back to camp, where we lay all day.

*"July 9.*—Crossed the river. Took all day to cross. Got no rations to-day. Herb [Elvidge's brother] was lucky enough to get a loaf of bread in Williamsport as we were going through.

*"July 10.*—Marched two miles beyond Martinsburg, passing through Falling Waters, making fifteen miles in the afternoon. People mostly loyal. No rations yet. Somebody has been kind enough to relieve me of my shoes.

*"July 11.*—Marched to within a mile and a half of Winchester, which place we reached about two o'clock at night. Drew the first rations to-day for three days. Had no shoes. Suffered terribly on the march.

*"July 12.*—Passed through Winchester. Marched about five miles and rested for the remainder of the day. Drew rations of flour and meat. Several hospitals full of Milroy's wounded.

*"July 13.*—Marched about fifteen miles, passing through Kernstown, Bordensville, Newtown, and Middletown. Crossed Cedar Creek on a temporary bridge. Rained very heavily most of the day.

*"July 14.*—Marched twenty-three miles, passing through Strasburg, Woodstock, Thomasbrook. Suffer a good deal for want of rations.

*"July 15.*—Met the rebel Relief Committee on the way to Gettysburg. Marched fourteen miles, making a noon halt to draw rations. Passed through Hawkinstown, Mount Jackson, and Newmarket. First time we got enough to eat.

*"July 16.*—Marched nineteen miles, passing through Harrisonburg. Pretty nice place. All the country out to see us. Rained all night.

*"July 17.*—Marched twenty miles, passing through Mount Crawford and Mount Sidney. We are now within four miles of Staunton.

*"July 18.*—Reached Staunton at last. Searched, and our things taken away from us. Lay here the rest of the day.

*"July 19.*—Seven hundred men started to-day for Richmond (by train). Officers went yesterday. Tried hard enough to get away with them, but could not make it.

*"July 20.*—Started from Staunton at ten A.M., and reached that place [Richmond] about three o'clock the next morning.

*"July 21.*—Lay in the tobacco warehouse opposite Castle Thunder until ten. Then started for Bell Island, where we were paroled.

*"July 22.*—Seven hundred more prisoners brought in to-day from Staunton.

*"July 23.*—Meat and bread twice to-day, instead of soup. Got outside and had a wash in the James River; also washed my suit.

*"July 29.*—Reports that our army is at Culpeper and Staunton, fighting.

*"August 1.*—Took about one thousand out to go North.

"*August 2.*—All taken outside, searched, and counted, which took all day.

"*August 4.*—All taken outside again. Counted off in hundreds instead of nineties. . . . Also got outside to the river and had a wash. Captured a handful of soap from the commissary.

"*August 5.*—About four hundred of the prisoners have arrived from Staunton. I can't imagine what has kept them so long. There are some left there yet. They are all flush with grub.

"*August 6.*—More prisoners have come in, about four hundred in number, part from Staunton and the rest from Culpeper. One of our men hoisted the rebel flag to-day for half a loaf of bread.

"*August 7.*—About one hundred prisoners from Grant's army came in to-day. They report that Grant has got down as far as Corinth. For the first time since I was a prisoner washed with soap.

"*August 11.*—There was a star to be seen to-day, about four o'clock. Regarded as an omen.

"*August 13.*—Several got away last night. One of the 14th Brooklyn was brought back and punished.

"*August 14.*—We have had quite an excitement here to-day. One of the guards shot three men, killing two almost instantly and wounding another in the head. They had the little gun on the hill loaded with grape and canister, ready if there were any fuss.

"*August 21.*—This is the day Jeff Davis, in his proclamation, has set apart as a day of fasting and prayer for the recent reverses which have befallen them.

"*August 27.*—Moved into new tents. Have a blanket under and over me now, so I am very well fixed.

"*August 28.*—A squad of about two hundred and eighty sick went out. Alarm-bells were ringing for about two hours in the city, our cavalry being at Bottom Bridge on a raid.

"*August 29.*—Harry Laut took charge of the 'hundred' to-day.

"*August 31.*—Moody and Baldwin have left the squad and Hausman [John, of Company A] come into it.

"*September 3.*—Several of the men have been informed on, taken outside, and all their money taken away from them. One man, who was found to be drawing [rations] in two squads, was taken out and bucked and gagged.

"*September 5.*—I tried for the first time cracking one of those big bones, and it was splendid,—full of fat and grease. There is a good deal of strength in it.

"*September 8.*—Heavy trains loaded with troops have been going out from the city. They must be re-enforcing Bragg or Beauregard.

" *September 9.*—As usual, nothing of importance going on, and my time has been spent in the same monotonous way. Nothing at all to do but to work on bones. If I only had a knife of my own, I could pass my time pretty well.

" *September 10.*—Two guards and six men made their escape last night by digging through the bank at the upper end of the camp.

" *September 13.*—Another man was shot last night, going to the sink.

" *September 19.*—Paroling slowly again. Hausman was out with the fourth squad, so he is all right.

" *September 21.*—Seven hundred and twenty prisoners left for City Point. Hausman and two more of our regiment went along with them.

" *September 23.*—Laut resigned his position as sergeant yesterday. The alarm-bells in the city were rung again last night. Old Bragg got another whipping in Tennessee.

" *September 27.*—To-day we have been very busy paroling. About four hundred from the South came in, and four hundred from the inside go North, and I am among the lucky ones. I tried very hard for 'Loudy' [Laut], but was put off.

" *September 28.*—At last I am able to chronicle the day that sets me free from Bell Island, and a happy one it is. It was impossible to get 'Loudy' off, though I did my best for him. We are now lying in the same warehouse that we did when we came in from Staunton ten weeks ago.

" *September 29.*—Started from Richmond about four o'clock, on the cars, reaching City Point at eleven o'clock. Changed cars at Petersburg. No waiting, but stepped right on board the 'New York' and started. I thank the Lord that I am at last under the stars and stripes!

" *September 30.*—At last I have on a good new suit of clothes. Washed well with soap. In fact, I feel like another man. After going all night, reached Annapolis about seven o'clock A.M. Marched to College Green Barracks. Met all the boys there."

[It will be observed that Elvidge, in his memoranda, nowhere complains in harsh terms of the treatment he received from the rebel guards, and indulges in no criticism of the United States government for not taking more active measures to hasten the exchange of Union prisoners. With youth, strength, and good digestion on his side, he seems to have accepted the situation with fortitude, and to have borne every privation uncomplainingly. His pocket-notes, extending over a period of two years and a half, breathe throughout a spirit of unshaken patriotism.]

## II.

## LIEUTENANT J. Q. CARPENTER'S RECOLLECTIONS.

LIEUTENANT CARPENTER, of Company E, who commanded his company in the battle of Gettysburg, July 1, 1863, relates that he was captured in the town on the afternoon of that day, and with other prisoners marched out the Chambersburg road a mile or two, and slept that night in a large red barn. On the 2d he was permitted to run around and assist the wounded, and through his efforts Lieutenant Henry Chancellor was carried into the McPherson barn. On the 3d, with several fellow-prisoners, he started northward, hoping to evade the rebel guards, but was intercepted and brought back by a cavalry patrol.

On the 4th the march towards Richmond began, the details of which it is unnecessary to dwell upon. On reaching Richmond he was confined with some hundreds of Union officers in the third story of Libby Prison, where he remained until May, 1864. Then a series of compulsory migrations began, in which he was involved, lasting—with several long intervals of rest—until near the close of the war. The first long journey was by rail to Macon, Georgia, where the prisoners were confined at the Fair Grounds outside of the city. While there he united with others in an effort to escape by digging a tunnel under the stockade, but these operations were discovered and the scheme thwarted.

Towards the end of July, with several hundred Union officers, all drawn by lot, he was transferred by rail to Charleston, South Carolina, to be placed under fire. After being confined for some time in the grounds of the city jail, one-half of the number were accommodated at Roper Hospital, under parole, and the other half at the Marine Hospital. Here they watched the shells which were thrown into the city by the "Swamp Angel," and which, at night, furnished (in Lieutenant Carpenter's language) a "beautiful exhibition of fireworks." In September, Lieutenant Carpenter, with the other prisoners, was removed by train to Columbia, and put in an open field surrounded by guards. While *en route* to Columbia the lieutenant and a number of other officers leaped from the train and took to the woods; but after wandering around for ten days, pursued by blood-hounds, a defective compass led them into the outskirts of Columbia, where they were secured. Here they were confined in the grounds of the lunatic asylum, the lieutenant spending several days in the asylum on a pretence of sickness.

Shortly before the arrival of Sherman's troops at Columbia, Lieutenant Carpenter and his brother, Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Emlen Carpenter, of the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry, made another earnest effort to escape to the Union lines. They were finally "rounded up" by men and dogs,

and returned to custody at Columbia. Here, a day or two prior to General Logan's advent, they managed to secrete themselves in a loft, and on the appearance of the troops walked forth to freedom.

Accompanying Logan's corps to Fayetteville, Lieutenant Carpenter went thence to Wilmington by tug-boat, and from the latter point by steamer to Baltimore.

While he retains no very pleasant recollections of his captivity in "Dixie," the lieutenant both preached and practised a cheerful philosophy in all his trials, and returned to his friends with the same abounding good-humor which characterized him before his capture.

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### III.

#### EXTRACTS FROM CAPTAIN H. W. GIMBER'S NARRATIVE OF HIS EXPERIENCES AS A PRISONER OF WAR.

CAPTAIN H. W. GIMBER, of Company F, was captured near the seminary on the afternoon of the first day of the battle of Gettysburg, and shared the long march to Staunton, Virginia, and the journey by rail from that point to Richmond, where he arrived on the 18th of July, 1863. As so much has been written and printed concerning life in Libby Prison, the portion of his narrative relating to his confinement there is passed over, and the "Extracts" begin with his departure for Macon, Georgia.

"Left Richmond by train (cattle cars) May 7, 1864, and arrived at Danville, Virginia, on the morning of the 8th, where we were confined in the military prison. On the 12th we left for Greensborough, North Carolina. Walked seven miles of the road, the track not being completed. Arrived near Greensborough in the night and camped in the fields. Rain; soaked to the skin. Took cars on the morning of the 13th and reached Greensborough about eight A.M. Proceeded by train to Charlotte, arriving there in the evening.

"On the 14th took train and reached Columbia, South Carolina, in the evening. Thence again by train, and reached Augusta, Georgia, on the evening of the 15th. Remained in the cars, sixty to a car, with wet clothes and blankets. On the morning of the 16th went ten miles out of Augusta, lay there until four P.M., and then started for Macon. Arrived at Macon about seven A.M. on the 17th. Taken to a large park outside of the city. The enclosure contained about two acres, with some shade trees. Over one thousand officers quartered here.

"One of our officers, Captain Van Buren, who escaped on the way here, states that he was taken to Andersonville, Georgia, where our enlisted men

are kept. He says they are in a large lot, with no shelter and scarcely enough room to move about in, scanty clothing and covering, and insufficient food. They die at the rate of thirty and sometimes fifty per day. During March and April eleven hundred died. *He states that they have become almost idiotic. They have been shamefully used. Barbarians could not treat them worse than the rebels do. They have no energy, no purpose.—are like worn-out cattle turned out to die. They see their fate and cannot stave it off. There is no epidemic; they die of exhaustion and broken hearts.*

"Left Macon for Charleston, South Carolina, on the 27th of July. Started in the evening by train (cattle cars, as usual), and arrived in Charleston on the morning of the 29th. As soon as we got out of the cars we saw the shells from our guns bursting in the city. They marched us in a scorching sun across the Ashley River and through the city to the outskirts of the 'burnt district,' into the city jail-yard, among deserters, murderers, thieves, negro soldiers, etc.; gave us tents, which we put up in the filthy yard. All the offal and garbage of the prison is placed in the yard, and the stench is horrible. Most of the 'First Families' have left the city on account of the shelling, and the best part of the place is deserted.

"The poor of Charleston gave us water and milk, and evinced more kindness than the people of any place we have been in. Before our 'general' and 'field' officers were exchanged, which was about three days after our arrival, we were issued fresh meat and fresh bread,—food that had been a stranger to our stomachs for months. As soon as the fifty officers left, they gave us corn-meal and lard one day, and rice and lard the next. We are treated in the same manner as the felons. Two hundred officers, consisting mostly of the 'field' and their lackeys, were transferred to the work-house adjoining, where they enjoyed much better quarters, separate from the convicts.

"There was a secret association gotten up among the officers while we were at Macon, only such being received as could be relied upon, and a plan was laid to capture the train at Pocotalico Station, a distance of ten miles from our lines. Everything was ready, and each was assigned his part in the execution of the scheme, which was to disarm the guards inside and charge those on top of the cars. All were determined, and the majority of us would have been free but for the want of nerve on the part of the officer who was in charge of the plot, and was to have given the signal. We could have cheated the Confederacy out of six hundred officers, and deprived it of the hellish satisfaction of maltreating us.

"Three hundred and fifty officers were transferred to the Roper Hospital, August 17, and two hundred and thirty to the Marine Hospital,—in both cases paroled. Rations improved.

"At Charleston we raised money from a blockade runner on bills of exchange, five dollars in Confederate scrip for one dollar of good money. We purchased potatoes, peanuts, peppers, and groceries from the darky women who stood in front of Roper Hospital. They were slaves, who were permitted by their masters to earn a few pennies at their leisure.

"While at Charleston the yellow fever broke out, and many officers were taken sick and died. The disease spread so rapidly, and shells were thrown so numerously, that the authorities concluded to remove us.

"Left Charleston October 5, 1864. Arrived at Columbia on the morning of the 6th, and lay in the road all day. At night we were placed in a yard adjacent to the dépôt. Rained hard all night. Wrapped ourselves in our blankets and went to sleep in the mud. One of the officers was stabbed with a bayonet for buying some food. Next morning we were marched out two miles from the city and placed in a large field, without shelter. Were allowed to go out under guard to gather cedar boughs, with which we built ourselves shelter from sun and wind, but had no protection from rain. Fed on corn-meal and a small quantity of sorghum molasses,—no meat of any kind.

"After being placed in the hospital at Charleston, we received better usage from the officers, men, and citizens than in any other town in the Confederacy. This change may have been brought about by the lesson taught daily by General Gillmore,—a *forcible* lesson. While marching through the streets on the way to the cars, the citizens stood in groups at their doors, and many remarked what a handsome set of men the United States officers were. There were among us, in fact, some of the finest-looking men I ever saw. The women in Charleston asked us why we did not go home and let the South alone. As we were leaving the city, Foster commenced shelling furiously. While there we had many very narrow escapes. Pieces of shell flew into the building and yard. When a shell came over, and we happened to be in the yard, we would lie close in to the stone fence. We could tell by the sound exactly which way the shell was coming.

"Left the camp in the field, called 'Sorghum,' on the 12th of December, and marched to and through Columbia to the grounds of the lunatic asylum, a part of which was fenced off to pen up the 'Yanks.' Before entering the enclosure we were told by the rebel commandant that houses were laid out for us, and tools and lumber would be furnished for their construction. If any lumber was destroyed or tools were missing the value would be deducted from our money in their hands. One house was partly put up, and the post-holes for the rest were dug and some posts planted, but not a board was supplied to continue the work with. Some old tents were issued,

but many officers were without shelter, and the weather was cold and rainy. No meat issued since we left Charleston. Plenty of meat at the sutler's at exorbitant prices, but none to issue. Fourteen dollars in Confederate scrip for a dinner for five; seven dollars Confederate for one dollar greenback; twenty-five dollars Confederate for one dollar gold. Money sufficient in the rebels' hands to keep us from starving, but they would not issue it.

"Left the stockade at Columbia on the night of the 14th of February, marched to the dépôt, about half a mile, through the mud and rain, and stood in the rain about two hours awaiting transportation. The cars were filled with refugees. The rich men of Columbia were offering any price to have their families and goods taken away, to escape the ruthless hands of the 'Yanks,' as Sherman was reported near Columbia. Next day we left for Charlotte, North Carolina. In the night the engine ran into some cows and was thrown from the track. *Next day we had beef rations.* Were detained until about noon, when, a siding having been completed, we moved on and reached Charlotte about ten P.M. Slept in the cars. Next morning we were marched to a field near the city and encamped. In the night a little rice-meal and meat was issued, sufficient to make one meal. Nothing all the next day, and no rations of any kind on the following day. Borrowed a few Confederate beans and made a dinner.

"Rumors that an arrangement had been made for a general exchange were rife.

"Left Charlotte on the morning of February 21. Cars all taken up by refugees and stores. Went thirteen miles and the engine gave out. The engineer tried to fix it, but without success. We lay at a place called Harrisburg three days, then got on another train and reached High Point, fifteen miles from Greensborough. All was confusion when we arrived. A train had run off the track, and it took twenty-four hours to remove it. Wheedled our passage on a passenger train. I got in a car filled with our enlisted men, and such a distressing sight I have seldom witnessed. The men were half naked, and the stench from the dirt that was ground into their skin was stifling. The car took fire, and the flames were beginning to assume alarming proportions when we arrived at Greensborough. Got out, and the officers were placed in an old shed. Weather rainy and miserable. The train for Raleigh was to be ready in half an hour. We were half famished and chilled. The rebels, for what reason I cannot divine, issued a barrel of sorghum and a bag of corn-meal. We relieved ourselves by a little expression of our sentiments in the presence of a gaping crowd of Confederate officers.

"Left Greensborough in the evening and arrived at Raleigh the next evening, where we were not allowed to purchase anything. City under

martial law. Every road was picketed. Citizens were not allowed to come near us. The military are hated, and the poor suffer beyond description. A scene occurred illustrative of the chivalry of the South. A poor negro, who had attempted to sell the 'Yanks' cakes, was arrested and placed under two Confederate guards. Of a sudden the darky ran, and the rebel officer ordered the men to shoot. Each guard aimed in turn, but the hand of Providence was over the innocent 'nigger.' The guns missed fire, and we 'Yanks' sent up a derisive shout.

"Nothing could exceed the bitter hatred and pusillanimous revenge of the rebel. With intelligence little above that of the animals, he showed as little feeling. While we were in Libby Prison we would sometimes go to the window for a little air, and but for the timely warning of our friends many more would have been murdered than were. As it was, about a half-dozen were killed or wounded. The 'rebs' would watch all day for a shot at us; would even get off their posts to kill a Yankee. At Macon one man was promoted to orderly sergeant and given a leave of absence for two weeks for killing an officer of the 45th New York. This was cold-blooded murder, as the officer was inside of the 'dead line,' stooping at the spring to get a drink. At the camp in the field near Columbia we had several valuable officers murdered without any provocation. One man merely reached his hand over the 'dead line' to get an axe that had been thrown over. The sentry, who had made many threats, shot him through the heart.

"Major Griswold, in command of the prisoners, pressed a passenger train and we went on and reached Goldsborough about ten P.M. Marched to the court-house, which was filled with officers who had arrived before us. Slept out on the muddy ground. Next day, 27th, we were startled by the receipt of one day's ration, which was soon disposed of.

"Left Goldsborough the next day, February 28, on an empty stomach, after signing the parole. Stimulated alone by the excitement, we took our usual place on top of freight cars. Next morning we reached a point about five miles from neutral ground, and lay by to allow the 'Truce' train, with Captain Hatch, Exchange Agent C.S.A., to pass and establish the truce. In about ten minutes we started, in fifteen minutes we passed the rebel vedettes, and in five minutes more we stopped. The rebel guards were drawn up on either side of the train. We got off and were counted by an officer from each government. General Abbott was in charge of the truce. Our officers looked magnificent in their beautiful uniforms, and our men were hardy and soldierly,—something entirely different from what we had been used to for some time. On leaving the rebels behind and passing along our lines, the air seemed lighter and the sun shone out propitiously. Old bags, blankets, and clothing were thrown around promiscuously.

Such hearty, happy cheers, such spontaneous outbursts of gladness, were rarely heard or witnessed. The delight we all experienced was absolutely ineffable. We marched through the swamps, passed our pickets; I heard a wild yell at the head of our column; I looked, and lo! it was the old flag! Many cried with joy at the sight of it. I shouted until I was hoarse. The whole Twenty-fourth Corps, off duty, was paraded on either side of the road. The bands played national airs. The negro troops looked fine. They were delighted to see us,—pure, genuine delight.

"I was agreeably disappointed at the appearance and bearing of the colored troops, and all my prejudices vanished.

"We marched to Wilmington, about nine miles. On the road Widdis got sick, and by resting and slow walking we did not reach Wilmington until night. We quartered in vacant houses. Every prisoner I talked with pronounced the first day of March, 1865, the happiest day of his life.

"Embarked on the steamer 'Sedgwick' about three o'clock P.M., March 2, and lay in the stream all night. Next morning weighed anchor and sailed to the mouth of the Cape Fear River, opposite Fort Fisher. On the following morning passed the bar, and sea-sickness began to manifest itself, a majority of those on board being overcome by it."

[After a stormy voyage of two days the "Sedgwick" reached Fortress Monroe, March 6, about six P.M., took on provisions, and left for Annapolis about eight P.M. She arrived at Annapolis on the morning of the 7th.]

BATTLES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS.\*

*Number of Killed and Mortally Wounded in each.*

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Gettysburg, July 1, 2, and 3, 1863               | 57  |
| Wilderness, May 5 and 6, 1864                    | 22  |
| Laurel Hill and Spottsylvania, May 8 to 12, 1864 | 15  |
| North Anna, May 23, 1864                         | 2   |
| Bethesda Church, May 30, 1864                    | 1   |
| Cold Harbor, June 1, 1864                        | 2   |
| Petersburg, 1864                                 | 8   |
| Weldon Railroad, August 20, 1864                 | 1   |
| Hatcher's Run, October 27 and 28, 1864           | 1   |
| Dabney's Mill, February 6, 1865                  | 5   |
| Total killed or mortally wounded                 | 114 |

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\* Colonel Fox's figures in "Regimental Losses" are accepted for the most part. He omits Cold Harbor altogether.

TOTAL ENROLMENT AND CASUALTIES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-ONE PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS.

|                           | Enrolled. | Killed and Died of Wounds. |      |        | Died of Disease, in Prison, etc. |      |        | Aggregate. |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|------|--------|----------------------------------|------|--------|------------|
|                           |           | Officers.                  | Men. | Total. | Officers.                        | Men. | Total. |            |
| Field and staff . . . . . | 16        | ..                         | ..   | ..     | ..                               | ..   | ..     | ..         |
| Company A . . . . .       | 95        | ..                         | 13   | 13     | ..                               | ..   | 8      | 21         |
| Company B . . . . .       | 88        | 2                          | 5    | 7      | 1                                | 11   | 12     | 19         |
| Company C . . . . .       | 126       | ..                         | 9    | 9      | ..                               | 14   | 14     | 23         |
| Company D . . . . .       | 97        | 1                          | 11   | 12     | ..                               | 6    | 6      | 18         |
| Company E . . . . .       | 94        | ..                         | 11   | 11     | ..                               | 9    | 9      | 20         |
| Company F . . . . .       | 91        | ..                         | 13   | 13     | ..                               | 4    | 4      | 17         |
| Company G . . . . .       | 90        | 1                          | 16   | 17     | ..                               | 11   | 11     | 28         |
| Company H . . . . .       | 115       | ..                         | 16   | 16     | ..                               | 12   | 12     | 28         |
| Company I . . . . .       | 96        | ..                         | 14   | 14     | ..                               | 12   | 12     | 20         |
| Company K . . . . .       | 112       | ..                         | ..   | ..     | ..                               | 7    | 7      | 7          |
| Totals . . . . .          | 1020      | 4                          | 108  | 112    | 1                                | 94   | 95     | 207        |

## WEEKLY REPORT OF SICK, WOUNDED, ETC., OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS.

By H. M. KIEFFER, Hospital Steward. (From his Diary.)

| Date, 1864. | Mean Strength of Regiment. | Remaining Unfit for Duty at Last Weekly Report. | Taken Sick. | Wounded. | Total. | Returned to Duty. | Discharged. | Sent to General Hospital. | On Sick Furlough. | Died. | Remaining Unfit for Duty. |
|-------------|----------------------------|---|-------------|----------|--------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| April 30    | 346                        | 1   | 4           | ·        | 5      | 1                 | ·           | 2                         | ·                 | 2     | 2                         |
| May 7       | 276                        | 2   | 6           | 74       | 82     | 3                 | ·           | ·                         | ·                 | 2     | 77                        |
| May 14      | 93                         | 77  | 2           | 6        | 85     | 2                 | ·           | 78                        | ·                 | 1     | 4                         |
| May 21      | 148                        | 4   | 3           | ·        | 7      | 1                 | ·           | 5                         | ·                 | 1     | 1                         |
| May 28      | 122                        | 1   | 7           | 7        | 15     | 5                 | ·           | 7                         | ·                 | ·     | 3                         |
| June 4      | 135                        | 3   | 2           | 5        | 10     | 3                 | ·           | 3                         | ·                 | 1     | 3                         |
| June 11     | 168                        | 3   | 1           | 2        | 6      | 1                 | ·           | 3                         | ·                 | ·     | 2                         |
| June 18     | 110                        | 2   | 5           | ·        | 7      | 2                 | ·           | ·                         | ·                 | ·     | 5                         |
| June 25     | 135                        | 5   | 3           | 19       | 27     | 1                 | ·           | 22                        | ·                 | 1     | 3                         |
| July 2      | 134                        | 3   | 3           | 1        | 7      | 1                 | ·           | ·                         | ·                 | ·     | 6                         |
| July 9      | 155                        | 6   | 7           | ·        | 13     | 3                 | ·           | 3                         | ·                 | ·     | 7                         |
| July 16     | 164                        | 7   | 2           | 2        | 11     | 4                 | ·           | 1                         | ·                 | ·     | 6                         |
| July 23     | 159                        | 6   | 3           | ·        | 9      | 4                 | ·           | 3                         | ·                 | ·     | 1                         |
| July 30     | 159                        | 1   | 8           | ·        | 9      | ·                 | ·           | 1                         | ·                 | ·     | 8                         |
| Aug. 6      | 164                        | 8   | 5           | ·        | 13     | 1                 | ·           | 3                         | ·                 | ·     | 9                         |
| Aug. 13     | 162                        | 9   | 7           | 2        | 18     | 1                 | ·           | 5                         | ·                 | ·     | 12                        |
| Aug. 20     | 162                        | 12  | 5           | 1        | 18     | 2                 | ·           | 13                        | ·                 | ·     | 3                         |
| Aug. 27     | 128                        | 3   | 12          | 2        | 17     | 1                 | ·           | 7                         | ·                 | 1     | 7                         |
| Sept. 3     | 116                        | 7   | 1           | 1        | 9      | ·                 | ·           | 5                         | ·                 | ·     | 4                         |
| Sept. 10    | 137                        | 4   | 3           | ·        | 7      | 1                 | ·           | ·                         | ·                 | ·     | 6                         |
| Sept. 17    | ·                          | 6   | 6           | ·        | 12     | 1                 | ·           | ·                         | ·                 | ·     | 11                        |
| Sept. 24    | 137                        | 11  | 11          | ·        | 22     | 7                 | ·           | 4                         | 1                 | ·     | 10                        |
| Oct. 1      | 133                        | 10  | 3           | ·        | 13     | 3                 | ·           | 9                         | ·                 | ·     | 1                         |
| Oct. 22     | 227                        | 7   | 4           | ·        | 11     | 7                 | ·           | 1                         | ·                 | ·     | 3                         |
| Oct. 29     | 227                        | 3   | 2           | 4        | 9      | 1                 | ·           | 7                         | ·                 | 1     | 6                         |
| Nov. 5      | 222                        | 1   | 9           | ·        | 10     | 4                 | ·           | ·                         | ·                 | ·     | 5                         |
| Nov. 12     | 219                        | 6   | 7           | ·        | 13     | 8                 | ·           | ·                         | ·                 | ·     | 6                         |
| Nov. 19     | 219                        | 5   | 10          | ·        | 15     | 8                 | ·           | 1                         | ·                 | ·     | 6                         |

NOTE.—These reports take no account of the killed. The hospital kept no record of those killed on the field, but only of the sick and wounded who came under its care.

MORNING REPORT OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS,  
JANUARY 22, 1865.

APPENDIX.

275

| Jan. 22,<br>1865. | For Duty. |      | Detached Duty. |      | Absent Sick. |      | In Arrest. |      | Present Sick. |      | Total. |      | Aggregate<br>Absent<br>Rate. | Last<br>Report<br>Returned. | Remarks.                              |
|-------------------|-----------|------|----------------|------|--------------|------|------------|------|---------------|------|--------|------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                   | Off.      | Men. | Off.           | Men. | Off.         | Men. | Off.       | Men. | Off.          | Men. | Off.   | Men. |                              |                             |                                       |
|                   |           |      |                |      |              |      |            |      |               |      |        |      |                              |                             |                                       |
| A                 | 2         | 15   | ..             | 6    | ..           | 11   | ..         | ..   | 2             | ..   | 2      | 34   | 36                           | 36                          | Lieut. Rorer, Co.                     |
| B                 | ..        | 21   | 1              | 8    | ..           | 7    | ..         | ..   | 1             | ..   | 2      | 36   | 38                           | 38                          | B, on leave, but<br>carried in total. |
| C                 | 2         | 21   | ..             | 8    | ..           | 6    | ..         | ..   | 2             | ..   | 2      | 37   | 39                           | 39                          |                                       |
| D                 | ..        | 23   | ..             | 7    | 1            | 19   | ..         | ..   | 2             | 1    | 1      | 51   | 52                           | 52                          |                                       |
| E                 | ..        | 12   | ..             | 2    | ..           | 7    | ..         | ..   | 1             | ..   | 1      | 21   | 22                           | 22                          |                                       |
| F                 | ..        | 13   | ..             | 3    | 1            | 14   | ..         | 1    | ..            | ..   | 1      | 31   | 32                           | 32                          |                                       |
| G                 | 2         | 14   | ..             | 9    | ..           | 11   | ..         | ..   | 1             | 2    | 2      | 35   | 37                           | 37                          |                                       |
| H                 | 1         | 23   | ..             | 9    | ..           | 16   | ..         | ..   | 2             | 1    | 1      | 50   | 51                           | 51                          |                                       |
| I                 | 1         | 13   | ..             | 6    | ..           | 19   | ..         | ..   | 3             | 1    | 1      | 41   | 42                           | 42                          |                                       |
| Total.            | 8         | 155  | 1              | 58   | 2            | 110  | ..         | 1    | 14            | 13   | 13     | 336  | 349                          | 349                         |                                       |

NAMES AND DATE OF DEATH OF OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE  
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS,  
AS REPORTED TO SERGEANT CHARLES P. HAUPT, SECRETARY  
OF SURVIVORS' ASSOCIATION.\*

Private George Sharpless, Company A, date unknown.  
Private George Dunckley, Company B, date unknown.  
Private George Styer, Company B, date unknown.  
Private Mahlon Breyman, Company D, date unknown.  
Private Michael Brian, Company D, date unknown.  
Private James M. Chambers, Company D, date unknown.  
Private Ammon L. Houck, Company D, date unknown.  
Private John Hafer, Company D, date unknown.  
Private Simon Malehorn, Company D, date unknown.  
Private George F. Oberdorf, Company D, date unknown.  
Private William Stahl, Company D, date unknown.  
Corporal George W. Barkdoll, Company D, date unknown.  
Corporal Samuel Ruhl, Company D, date unknown.  
Sergeant Samuel Kerstetter, Company D, date unknown.  
Corporal Jonathan Carr, Company F, date unknown.  
Private William Regens, Company F, date unknown.  
Private Bruno Albaugh, Company K, date unknown.  
Private Hiram Smith, Company D, June 2, 1865.  
Private John F. Fox, Company D, about 187c.  
Private Henry Deal, Company D, July 28, 1871.  
Private Jonathan Seaman, Company D, January 10, 1880.  
Private David Page, Company D, June 20, 1885.  
Musician Charles E. Zebley, Company F, August 12, 1885.  
Captain Harvey Fisher, Company A, August 31, 1885.  
Private Nathan Peck, Company D, —, 1885.  
Private James Mawhorter, Company B, February 6, 1886.  
Corporal Amos Browand, Company D, May 18, 1886.  
First Lieutenant William M. Taylor, Company A, April 25, 1887.  
Private Wilson Lashells, Company D, October 1, 1887.  
Private Andrew Batzel, Company F, September 28, 1889.  
Sergeant George W. Pastor, Company E, March 5, 1890.  
Captain William P. Dougal, Company D, July 8, 1890.  
Sergeant William S. McGinley, Company E, August 4, 1890.

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\* A complete list, if obtainable, would fill many pages.

Private Simon Erdley, Company D, August —, 1890.  
Lieutenant-Colonel Cornelius C. Widdis, Company A, December 22, 1890.  
Private Isaiah B. Dewees, Company A, December 27, 1890.  
Private Joseph Jordan, Company A, February 3, 1891.  
Second Lieutenant Joseph Chatburn, Company F, February 16, 1891.  
Corporal George W. Bates, Company F, February 23, 1891.  
First Lieutenant Franklin B. Jaggard, Company E, March 3, 1891.  
Brevet Brigadier-General Langhorne Wister, March 19, 1891.  
Captain D. V. Derickson, Company K, July 18, 1891.  
Sergeant Hoover J. Shannon, Company C, January 18, 1892.  
Private Jacob Myers, Company A, March 19, 1892.  
Musician Ernest Fowler, Company I, —, 1892.  
Captain William S. Pine, Company E, October 4, 1892.  
Private Charles A. Nuneviller, Company A, December 17, 1892.  
Musician Eli A. Eastman, Company H, March —, 1893.  
Private Joseph P. Bailey, Company F, April 7, 1893.  
Private Charles J. Lehman, Company A, April 19, 1893.  
Private Aaron Ammon, Company D, —, 1893. .  
Private Isaac Linn, Company D, —, 1893.  
Corporal Augustus Stadelman, Company B, April 25, 1893.  
Private Abraham Dannenhower, Company E, —, 1893.  
Private John Doran, Company B, —, 1894.  
Corporal Tobias Lister, Company B, —, 1894.  
Captain Arthur S. Voorhis (Quartermaster), August 17, 1894.  
Private Conrad Redifer, Company A, October 4, 1894.  
Corporal Charles Ravenor, Company E, January 7, 1895.

4

THE END.













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